J-SiS Presents

Usagi Drop v04

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うさぎドロップ

4

宇仁田ゆみ

Don't you think this world
is better than you expected?

usagi drop

うさぎドロップ 4 宇仁田ゆみ

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Don't you think this world
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うさぎドロップ 4

宇仁田ゆみ Unita Yumi

434
祥伝社

うさぎドロップ 4

宇仁田ゆみ Unita Yumi

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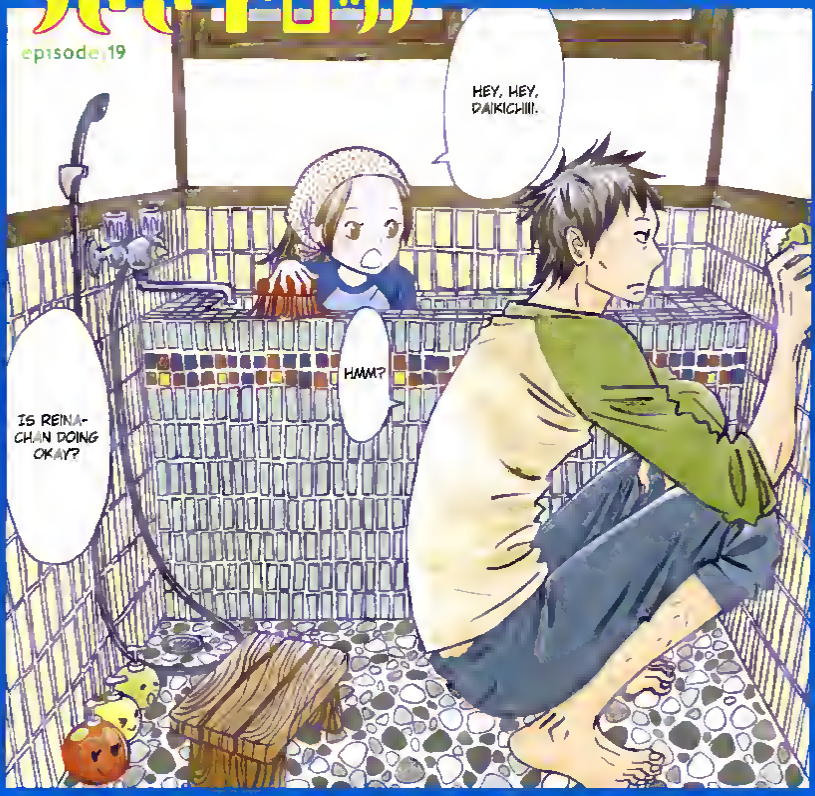
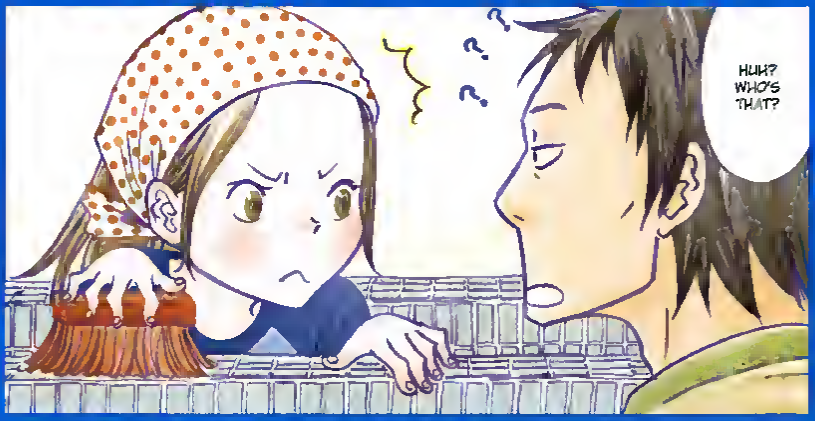
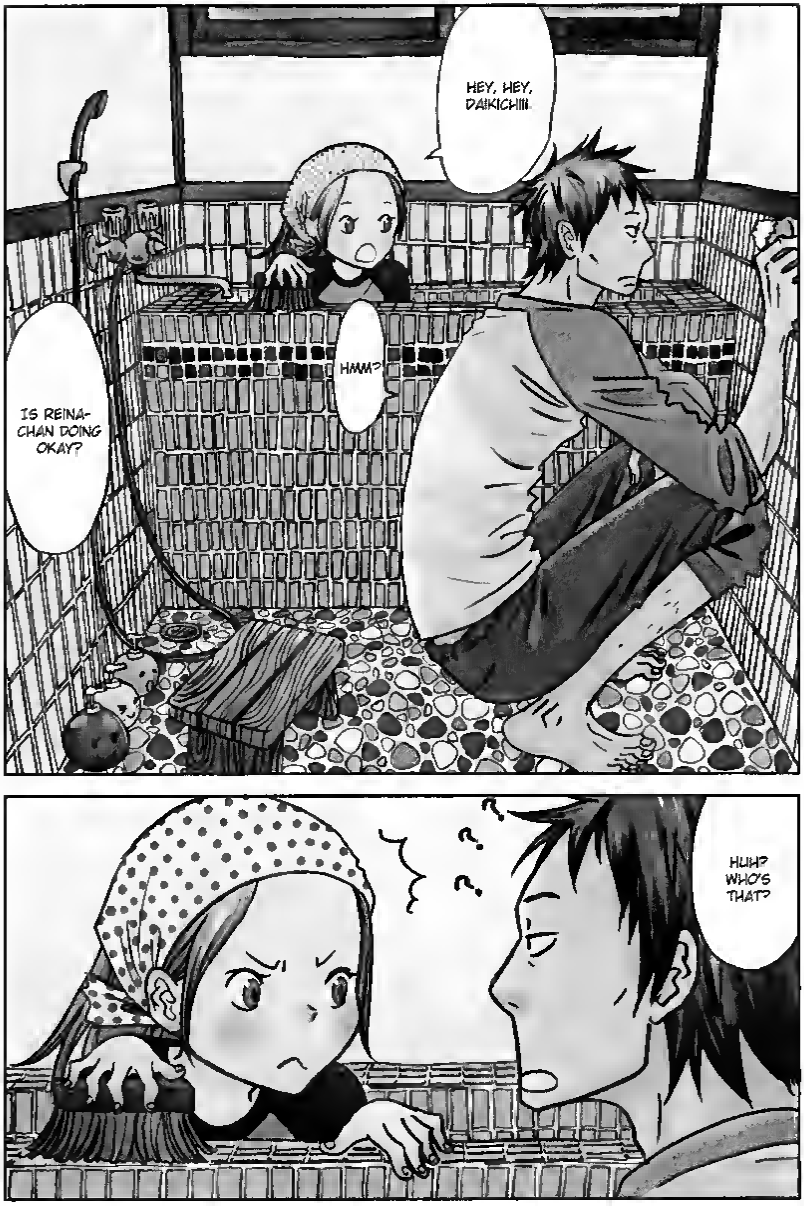





HEY, HEY, DAIKICHIII.
HMM?
IS REINA-CHAN DOING OKAY?
HUH? WHO'S THAT?

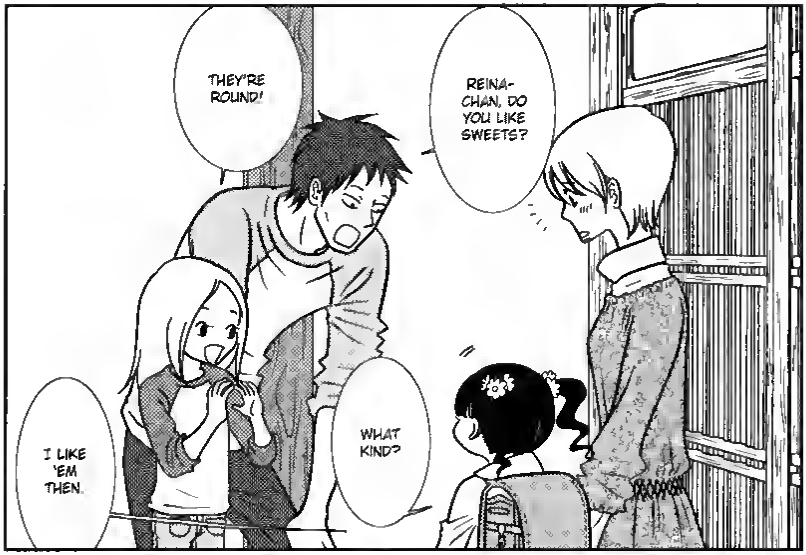
I WONDER WHY THERE'S A STINGING SENSATION IN MY CHEST...
WHYYY?
?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU...
DON'T SAY "I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU"!!
I think I'm going to cry!
SO, WHO'S REIKA-CHAN AGAIN?
I can't believe you.
AH!
REINA-CHAN'S MOM IS HARUKO-CHAN, YOUR COUSIN, RIGHT?
AH...
Messed up already.
RE-I-NA-CHAN!!

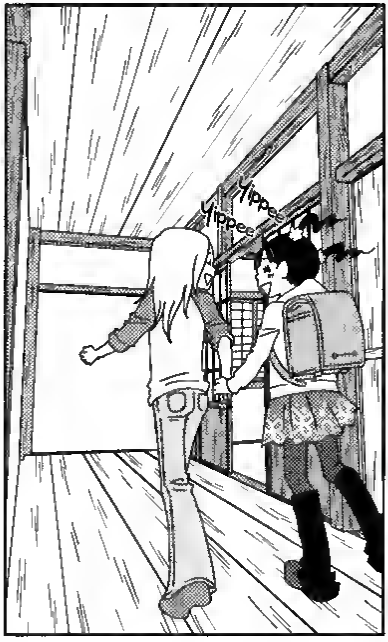
I ALWAYS FORGET KIDS' NAMES AND THEIR MOMS' FACES!!
SHUD DAP!!
I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE YOU...
Don't understand 30 year olds
HARUKO'S KID, HUH?
HA HA HA
SCRUB
SCRUB
YEAH!
WELL, YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER KOU-KUN'S MOM
WELL...
I WANNA SEE REINA-CHAN AGAIN...

REALLY?!
WE CAN GO AND SEE THEM AGAIN
AH! WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WE'RE COUSINS, RIGHT?!
HEY, HEY, IS REINA-CHAN MY COUSIN?
REINA'LL PROBABLY BE HAPPY TOO, SINCE SHE'S AN ONLY CHILD...
RIN'S ACTUALLY HER GRAND-AUNT...
DAIKICHI, YOU HAVE A GUEST.
OKAAY.
SORRY FOR INTRUDING

DAI-CHAN, RIN-CHAN...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
HUHHH ?!
HARU-KO!!
...
WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN—

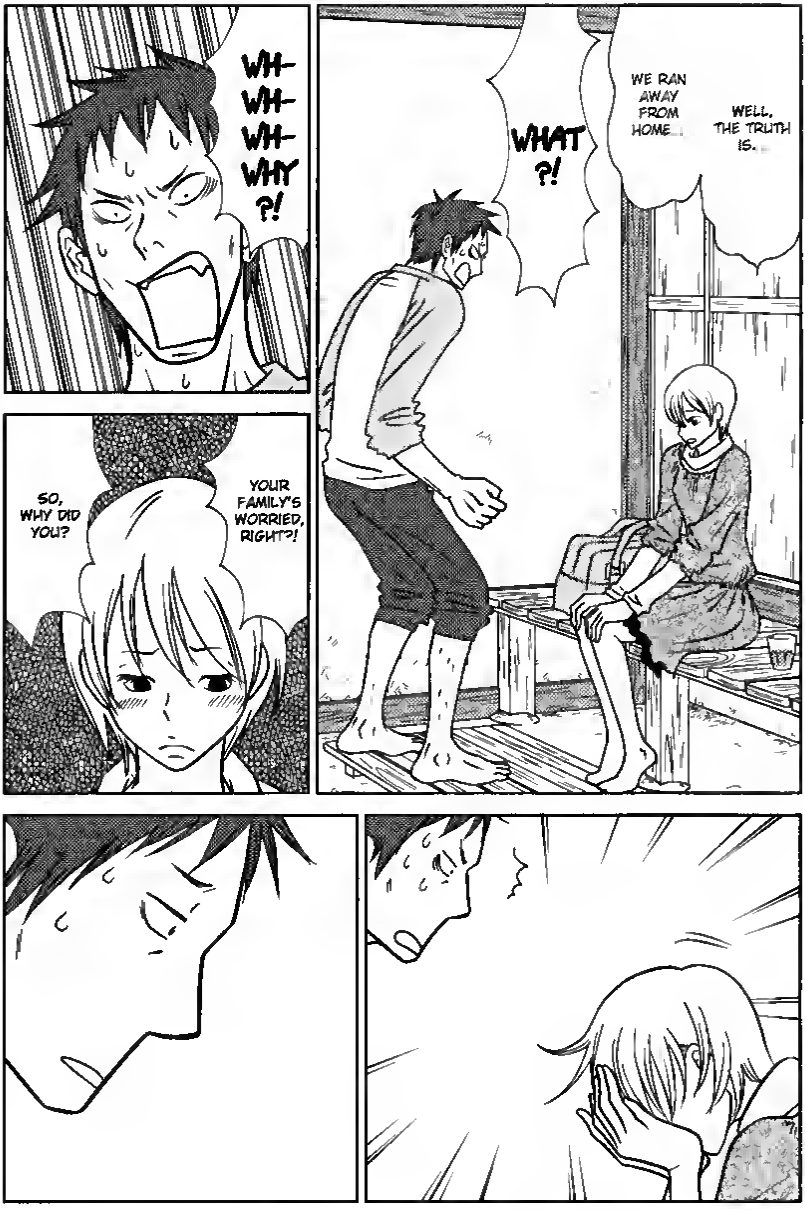
REINA-CHAN!
RIN-CHAN.
REALLY?!
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU!
AH
UM.
DAI-CHAN
HARUKO


THEY'RE ROUND!
REINA-CHAN, DO YOU LIKE SWEETS?
I LIKE 'EM THEN.
WHAT KIND?


Yippee
Yippee

WELL THEN, RIN...
WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH REINA TO THE DINING ROOM.
...AND POUR SOME BARLEY TEA FOR HER?
OKAY!
REINA-CHAN, LET'S GO

YOUR HOME'S AMAZING
EVEN THOUGH IT'S MY FIRST TIME HERE, IT FEELS JUST LIKE GRANDPA'S
RIGHT, SO WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS ABOUT?!
IT'S SUNDAY AND SHE'S CARRYING HER BACK-PACK!
AH... SORRY


WH-
WH-
WH-
WHY
?!
WHAT
?!
WE RAN AWAY FROM HOME...
WELL, THE TRUTH IS...
SO, WHY DID YOU?
YOUR FAMILY'S WORRIED, RIGHT?!

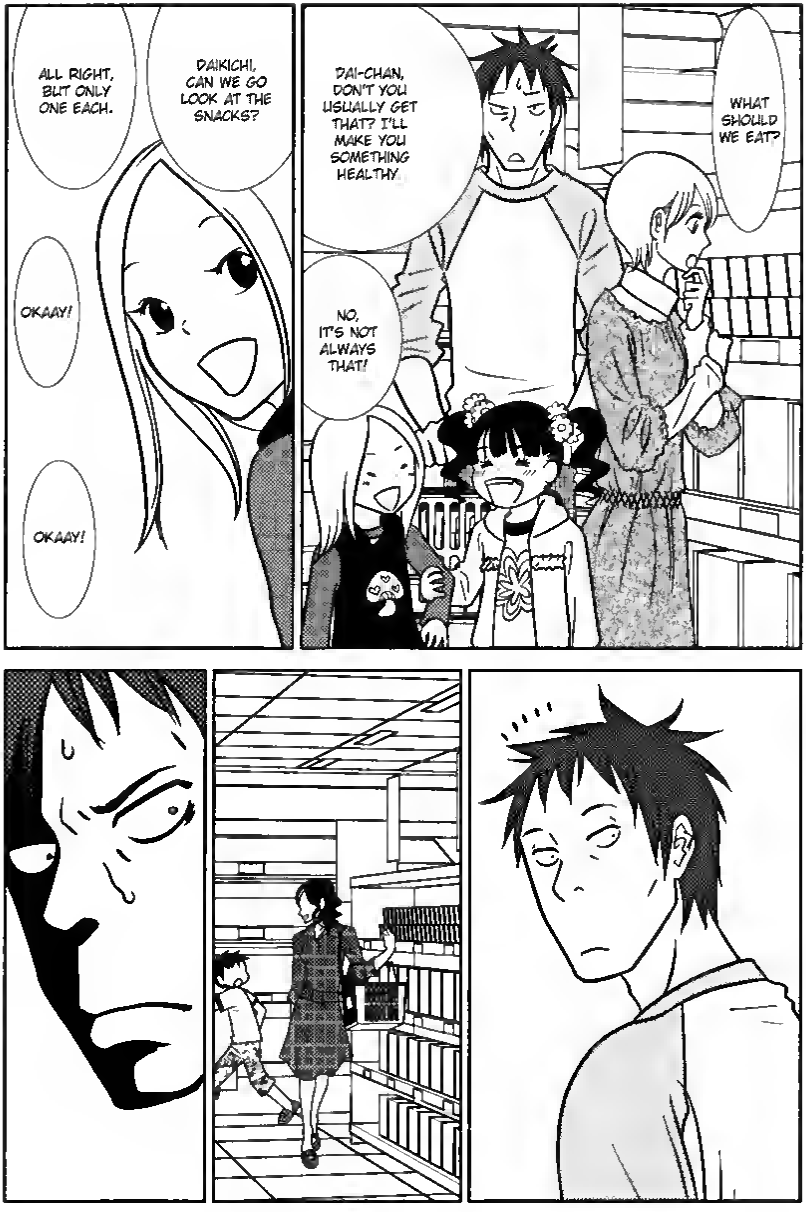
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH YOUR IN-LAWS...?
THERE'S THAT, TOO...
AGAIN WITH THE "TOO"!!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH YOUR HUSBAND...?
THERE'S THAT, TOO!
TOO?
TOO!!
WHAT IS "THAT"...?
"THAT" IS "THAT"!!
UM...
WHAT?
IS IT "THAT"?
GEH
SHE'S KINDA SCARY!
I WONDER IF THERE'S A HOUSEHOLD IN THIS ENTIRE WORLD WHERE ALL THE IN-LAWS GET ALONG
Never heard of one before
JUST AS I THOUGHT... IT'S GOTTA BE TOUGH LIVING TOGETHER WITH YOUR IN-LAWS, HUH...?
The best an unmarried man can imagine
EVEN IF I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
WELL... IN ANY CASE, LET'S HEAR THE WHOLE STORY

WELL...
IF I TOLD YOU THE WHOLE STORY, I THINK IT'D TAKE ME THREE DAYS NON-STOP.
DO YOU STILL WANT TO HEAR IT?
WELL, IN THAT CASE, NEVER MIND.
DAI-CHAN, I...
I DON'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS, SO I HAVE NO-WHERE ELSE TO GO, SO...
...
FOR THE TIME BEING, CAN I STAY HERE?
IT'S JUST AS I SUSPECTED!!

THAT'S A LOT OF QUESTIONS ALL AT ONCE...
BUT, UNTIL WHEN? AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTER THAT?
WELL... I GUESS...
WHAT ABOUT REINA'S SCHOOL?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS' PLACE?
WHAT HAPPENED AT HOME THAT MADE YOU LEAVE?
AND I'LL TAKE REINA TO SCHOOL...
I DIDN'T TELL THEM WHERE I WAS GOING, BUT I DID LEAVE A NOTE BEHIND...
YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT YET? EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HERE WITH YOUR KID...?
NOR ABOUT MY PARENTS' PLACE...
AFTER THAT...
WELL, I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT YET...

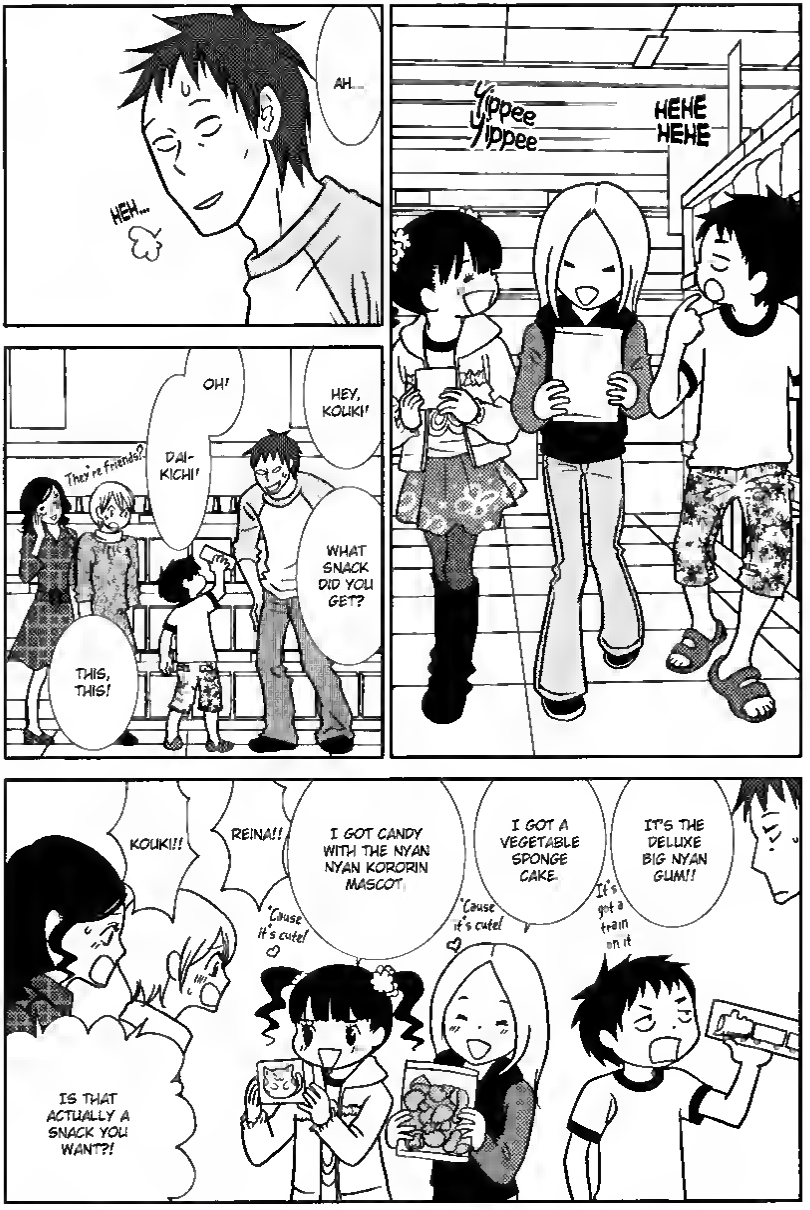
I JUST WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THERE!!
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A SECOND!
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW...
DAI-CHAN...
WHY DON'T WE GO GRO-CERY SHOP-PING FOR DINNER?
WELL, SINCE WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW,
...
...YOU CAN USE THE ROOM ON THE RIGHT
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT...

THANKS
THIS IS HEAVY...
HARUKO APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE...!!
I'LL TAKE IT.
...AND SAID THINGS I DIDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND.
THINGS LIKE REINA'S SLIPPERS AND TEXTBOOKS AND SUCH...
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN HERE?!
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT IT'S BEST TO FOCUS ON LOOKING AFTER HARUKO FOR THE TIME BEING.
I'M IMPRESSED YOU MADE IT ALL THE WAY HERE...
HAHA


DAIKICHI, CAN WE GO LOOK AT THE SNACKS?
ALL RIGHT, BUT ONLY ONE EACH.
OKAAY!
OKAAY!
WHAT SHOULD WE EAT?
DAI-CHAN, DON'T YOU USUALLY GET THAT? I'LL MAKE YOU SOMETHING HEALTHY.
NO, IT'S NOT ALWAYS THAT!

GOOD AFTERNOON, DAIKICHI-SAN.
DAI-CHAN...
THE GROUND MEAT SURE IS CHEAP...
CRAP!
AH, WELL...
THIS IS...

HUH...?
AH...
THIS IS HARUKO, A COUSIN OF MINE FROM MY MOTHER'S SIDE!!
UH...
THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE...
DOES IT MATTER THAT I'M FROM YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE...?
AND WHAT WAS THE POINT IN EXPLAINING ALL OF THIS TO HER?!
WHY DID I SAY "THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE"?!
SWEAT
SWEAT
ACK!! SHE DIDN'T EVEN ASK ... SO WHY DID I SAY THAT?!
RIN-CHAN AND MY SON ARE CLASS-MATES AND I'M ALWAYS TROUBLING DAIKICHI S...
OH, THEN MY DAUGHTER'S ALSO THE SAME AGE AS YOUR SON.
HOW WONDER-FUL!
PANIC
OH, YOU'RE DAIKICHI'S COUSIN IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU


AH...
HEH...
Yippee Yippee
HEHE HEHE
HEY, KOUKI!
OH!
DAI-KICHI!
They're friends?
WHAT SNACK DID YOU GET?
THIS, THIS!
KOUKI!!
REINA!!
I GOT CANDY WITH THE NYAN NYAN KORORIN MASCOT.
I GOT A VEGETABLE SPONGE CAKE.
IT'S THE DELUXE BIG NYAN GUM!!
'Cause it's cute!
'Cause it's cute!
It's got a train on it
IS THAT ACTUALLY A SNACK YOU WANT?!

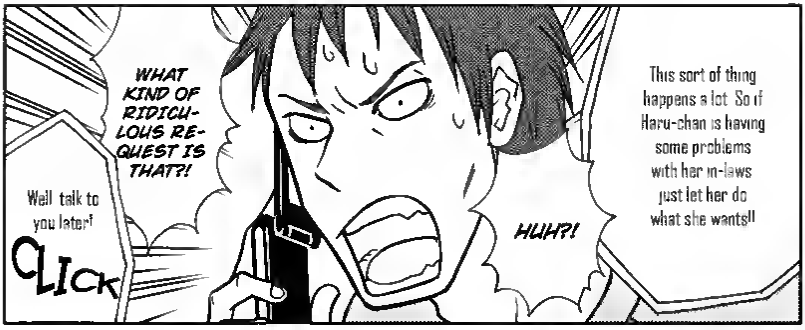
GRIN
GRIN
SHE WAS PRETTY.
WELL..... I GUESS SHE'S PRETTY CONSIDERING SHE'S A MOM
WH—
It's best not to get involved with people around you.
STILL, IT'S PROBABLY BEST TO AVOID AN ILLICIT RELATIONSHIP.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
AND BESIDES, IT'S GOTTA BE TOUGH RAISING KOUKI AS A SINGLE MOTHER.
IT'S TOTALLY NOT LIKE THAT!!

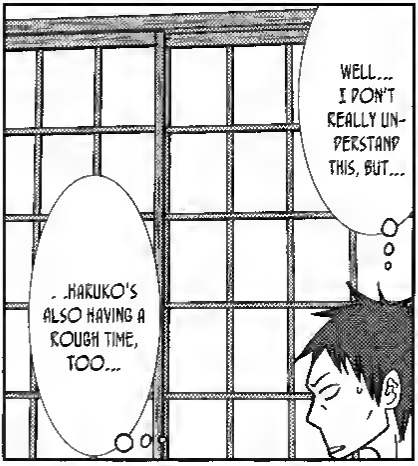
SHE'S PROBABLY TWO OR THREE YEARS OLDER THAN WE ARE.
WHO CARES ABOUT HER AGE?!
Are you stupid? Stop watching those trashy dramas!
Let's do that during lunchtime
Yeah!
Yeah!
A SINGLE MOTHER?!
URGH
HOW CAN YOU TELL WHAT'S UNDER HER CLOTHES?!
I'VE GIVEN BIRTH TOO, SO I CAN TELL.
SHE'S STILL GOT A GREAT FIGURE
BUT ISN'T IT AMAZING?
MAYBE
I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
IT WAS TIMES LIKE THESE THAT HARUKO SEEMED ALMOST NORMAL.
HEY.
SHE'S DIVORCED, RIGHT?

THE CHILDREN SEEMED BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON AROUND THEM.
AND WE ATE DINNER...
...BUT, I WAS AT A LOSS.
AFTER THAT, WE RETURNED HOME...
THE BATH'S READY. HARUKO, YOU AND REINA-CHAN CAN GO IN FIRST
OKAY, THANKS
MOM, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS QUESTION
WHICH ONE?

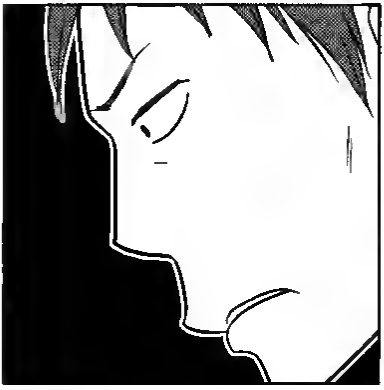
I CAN!!
REINA, YOU CAN'T WASH YOUR HAIR BY YOUR SELF YET.
YOU CAN'T!!
WHAT?!
BUT I WANNA TAKE A BATH WITH RIN-CHAN
I JUST HELP HER RINSE.
DAI-CHAN,
DOES RIN-CHAN WASH HER OWN HAIR?
FINE! THEN MAMA CAN COME IN WITH US!!
SORRY FOR THE TROU-BLE...
YAY!!
OKAY!!
WELL, THEN,
I'LL HELP RIN-CHAN, SO EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.

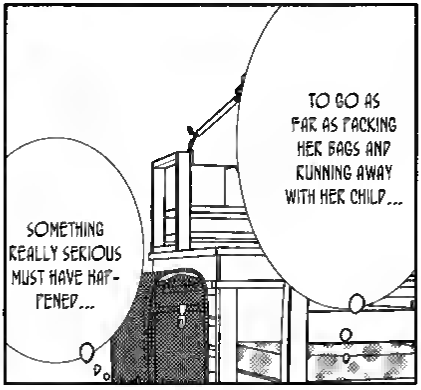
HI, MOM
Yippee
AHAHAHA
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF, BUT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING HAPPENED WITH HER HUSBAND OR WITH HER IN-LAWS OR SOMETHING...
WHAT?!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?! WHY DID HARU-CHAN DO THAT AGAIN...?
Haru-chan's always been a good girl. There's no way she's the one at fault!
WE'RE THE ONES BEING INCONVENIENCED OVER HERE. I FEEL GUILTY HARBORING HER HERE.
Oh, is that all?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IS THAT ALL"?


WHAT KIND OF RIDICULOUS REQUEST IS THAT?!
Well talk to you later!
CLICK
HUH?!
This sort of thing happens a lot. So if Haru-chan is having some problems with her in-laws just let her do what she wants!!


WELL... I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THIS, BUT...
...HARUKO'S ALSO HAVING A ROUGH TIME, TOO...

beeeep
beeeep




TO GO AS FAR AS PACKING HER BAGS AND RUNNING AWAY WITH HER CHILD...
SOMETHING REALLY SERIOUS MUST HAVE HAPPENED...

I JUST DON'T GET IT...
BUT...
WHY DIDN'T SHE COME CLEAN AND TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?
WANT A DRINK?
THANKS!
ARE THEY ASLEEP?
IT SEEMS THIS IS QUITE DIFFICULT FOR HER...
AFTER A LOT OF TALKING, THEY FINALLY FELL ASLEEP.
OH.

WANT SOMETHING TO EAT?
Delicious!
OH, MY GOD! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE HAD ALCOHOL.
KT SH
ONCE YOU HIT THIRTY...
...YOU CAN'T BE LIKE HOW YOU WERE BEFORE... YOU'VE GOTTA BE MORE SELF-CONSCIOUS.
AH, THAT'S SO TRUE.
I GAIN WEIGHT SO EASILY THESE DAYS, SO, NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
NO, NO! I WASN'T REFERRING TO YOU! I WAS JUST SPEAKING IN GENERAL.
WHAT?! DID I REALLY GET FATTER?!

I MEAN, WHO WOULD I BE TRYING SO HARD FOR...?
SO, THERE ISN'T ANYTHING REALLY WORTH DOING...
BUT, EVEN THOUGH I SAY THAT, IT'S NOT LIKE MY HUSBAND EVER LOOKS AT ME
HARUKO.
I REALLY JUST DON'T KNOW...
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S BEST TO TRY AND GET IT OUT OF HER OR TO JUST STAY QUIET...
I HAD A FEELING HARUKO DIDN'T WANT TO GO INTO ANY DETAILS...
...BUT SOMETIMES IT LOOKED LIKE SHE DID.
...

WHEN EVERY-ONE WAS IN THE BATH, I CALLED YOUR HUSBAND.
WHAT IS IT?
YOUR FAMILY MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU
IT'S NOT STRANGE
I JUST SAID THAT THE TWO OF YOU WERE FINE AND WOULD BE STAYING HERE FOR THE TIME BEING
I DIDN'T GIVE THEM MY AD-DRESS
WHAT?! WHY?!
DAI-CHAN! DON'T GO DOING STRANGE THINGS ON ME!

I ALREADY LEFT A NOTE BEFORE COMING HERE...
...ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS!!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
...YOU'RE AN ADULT, SO YOUR FAMILY WOULDN'T BE ALL THAT WORRIED ABOUT YOU
BUT, WHAT ABOUT REINA?
REINA'S WITH ME. HER MOTHER, AND SHE'S ACTU-ALLY DOING JUST FINE
EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE,
IF YOU DON'T LET THEM KNOW WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW AND HOW REINA'S DOING...
...THE PEOPLE WAITING WON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK...
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SAYING IS WRONG HERE?

THE PEOPLE WHO'RE WAITING...?
CALM DOWN A BIT, WILL YOU?
IS IT JUST ABOUT CAUSING TROUBLE FOR YOUR FAMILY?
DAI-CHAN, YOU STUPID...
AW, CRAP...
SHE'S A CRYBABY...
EVERY-DAY...

IT'S OKAY TO CAUSE A LITTLE TROUBLE FOR THEM, RIGHT?!
EVER SINCE...
I GOT MAR-RIED
...I'VE HAD TO LIVE WITH MY FEELINGS LOCKED AWAY EVERY DAY!!
IT'S OKAY TO DO WHAT I WANT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, RIGHT?!
I KNOW HARUKO'S IN THE WRONG...
...BUT I WANT TO THINK THAT SHE ISN'T.

I'M SORRY, DAI-CHAN...
BUT, REALLY...
I SAID THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS...
I REALLY CAN'T COMPRE-HEND PURELY EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR...
...NOR CAN I OPENLY GRASP HER BY THE SHOULDERS.
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED, I'M STILL BAD AT DEALING WITH WOMEN.
NAW...
I'M GOING TO BED.
OKAY...
AND SO, I JUST FELL SILENT.
EVEN SO...

...WHAT IS MARRIAGE?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME A PARENT?
I'VE JUST BECOME MORE AND MORE CONFUSED.

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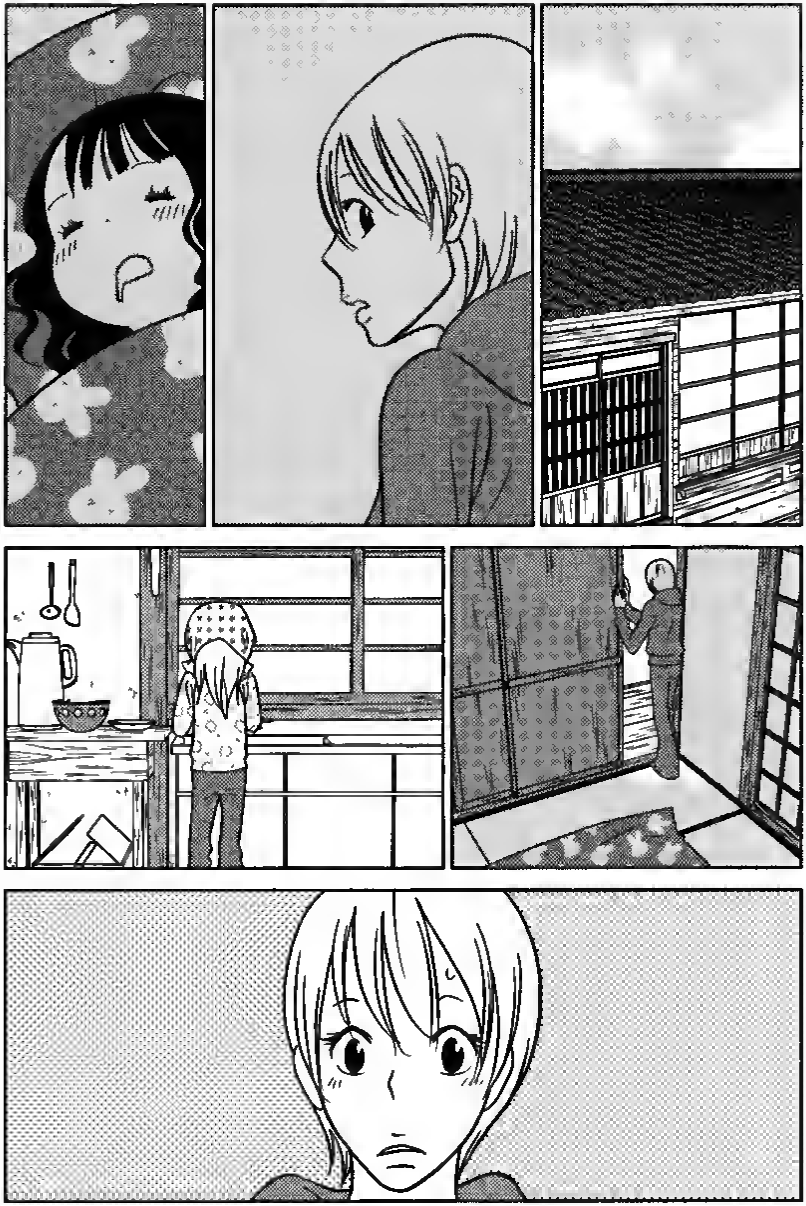
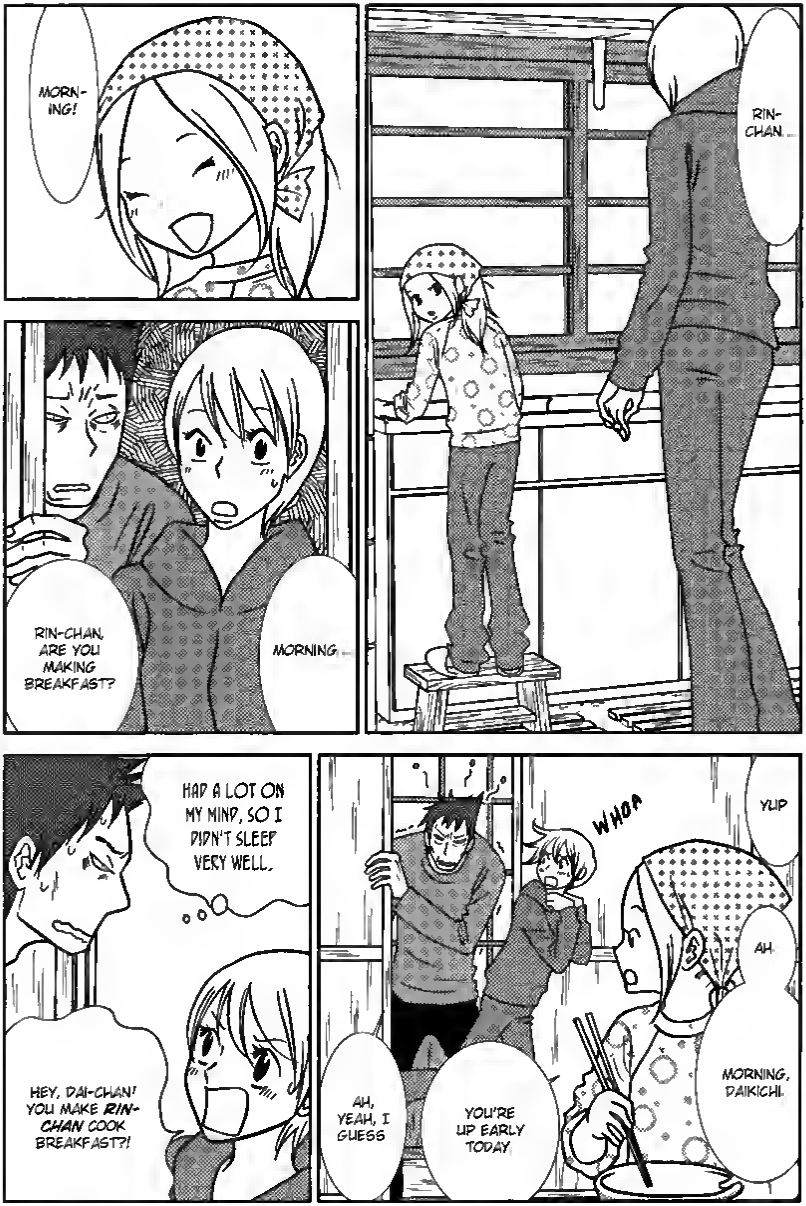
episode.20

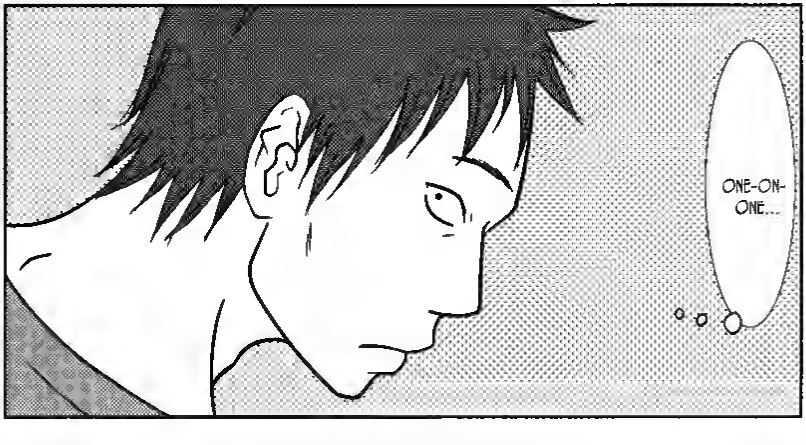



MORN-ING!
RIN-CHAN...
RIN-CHAN, ARE YOU MAKING BREAKFAST?
MORNING...
HAD A LOT ON MY MIND, SO I DIDN'T SLEEP VERY WELL.
HEY, DAI-CHAN! YOU MAKE RIN-CHAN COOK BREAKFAST?!
WHOA
YUP
AH.
MORNING, DAIKICHI.
AH, YEAH, I GUESS
YOU'RE UP EARLY TODAY.

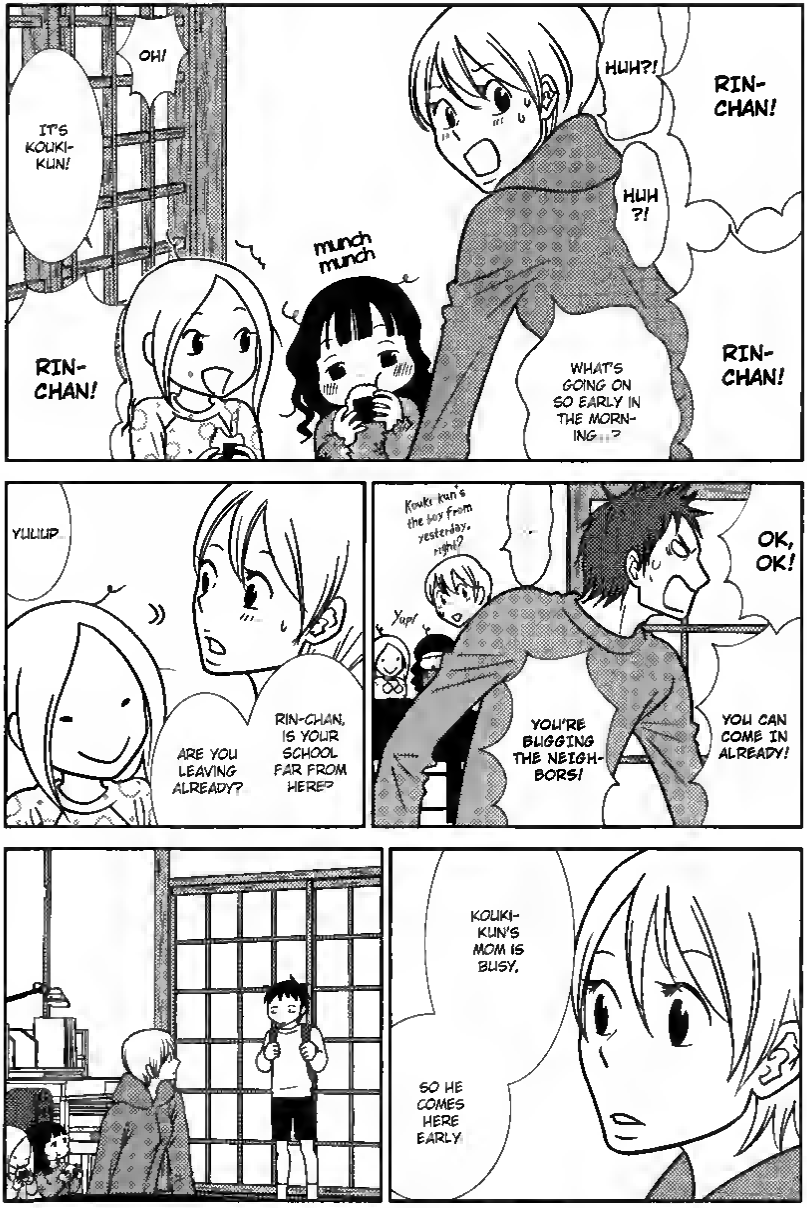
THAT WAS OVER A YEAR AGO, SO... I DON'T REMEMBER
HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE WHEN YOU WERE LIVING BY YOURSELF?
BUT WHEN HE DOESN'T GET UP, I HAVE TO WAKE HIM UP!
DAIKICHI ALWAYS TAKES CARE OF THE FIRE.
OHH!
DON'T... DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
WE ALWAYS MAKE IT TOGETHER!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THEY'RE IN A BAD MOOD IF THEY ARE WOKEN UP, AND IN A WORSE MOOD IF THEY AREN'T.
THE PEOPLE AT MY PLACE ARE THE SAME TOO.
Let's all act alone
DON'T LUMP ME WITH THEM!!
MEN ARE JUST SO UNBELIEVABLE

LOST IT...
I GUESS I JUST KINDA...
ONE THING JUST LED TO ANOTHER, AND...
NAW...
SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY...
YEAH?
HEY, MOMMY!!
MOMMY, MOMMY!! YOU KNOW WHAT?

AH
WHEN WE BOTH HAVE CHILDREN, IT'S HARD TO FIND TIME FOR A...
...ONE-ON-ONE GROWN-UP DISCUSSION


ONE-ON-ONE...

DID SHE JUST SAY "WE BOTH"??
SEEMS LIKE I'M BEING CAUGHT IN THIS WHOLE MESS.
...
REINA, HURRY UP AND EAT! IT TAKES LONGER TO GET TO SCHOOL FROM HERE


OH!
IT'S KOUKI-KUN!
RIN-CHAN!
munch munch
HUH?!
RIN-CHAN!
HUH?!
WHAT'S GOING ON SO EARLY IN THE MORNING...?
RIN-CHAN!
YUUUP
ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
RIN-CHAN, IS YOUR SCHOOL FAR FROM HERE?
Kouki-kun's the boy from yesterday, right?
Yup!
OK, OK!
YOU'RE BUGGING THE NEIGHBORS!
YOU CAN COME IN ALREADY!
KOUKI-KUN'S MOM IS BUSY,
SO HE COMES HERE EARLY

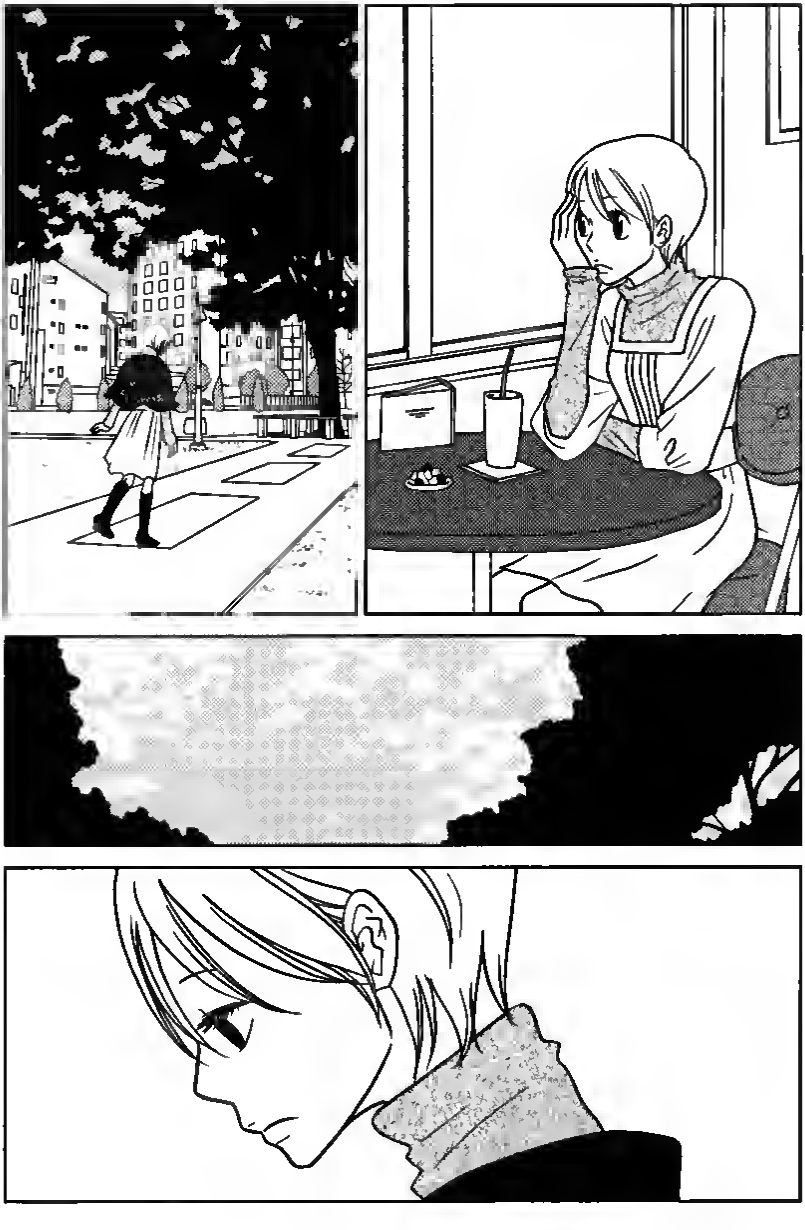
!
DAIKICHI, DID YOU GET MARRIED?!
NO!!!
SHE'S MY COUSIN!
SHE'S TINY!!
SHE'S A MOTHER AND MY COUSIN!!!
What am I saying?
DAIKICHI, CAN I HAVE A RICE BALL?
DIDN'T YOU EAT BEFORE COMING?
I DID...
AND YOU BRUSHED YOUR TEETH ALREADY, DIDN'T YOU?
I DID
BUT IT'S MONDAY, SO I BROUGHT MY TOOTHBRUSH.
YOU'RE PRETTY SMART.
ALL RIGHT, GO AHEAD AND HAVE SOME
BUT THESE ARE MINE!!
HOORAY!

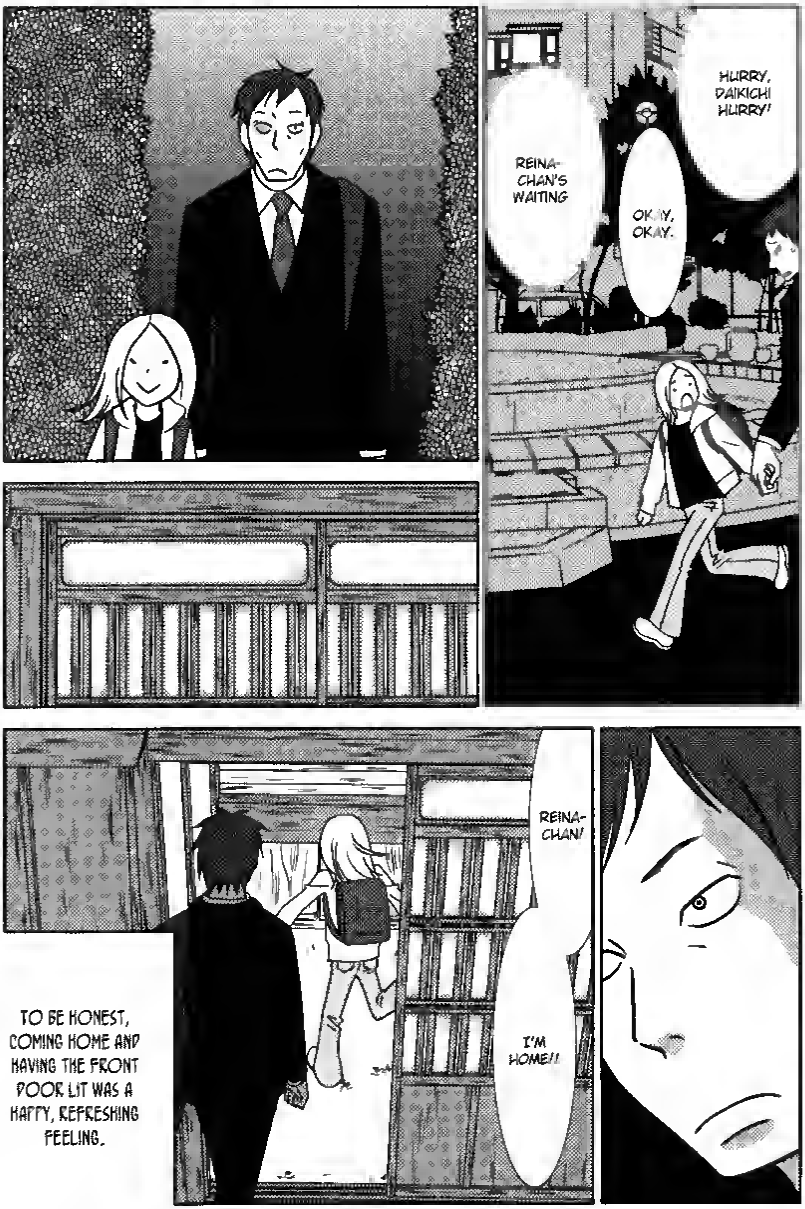
HOW MUCH OF A SUCKER ARE YOU, DAI-CHAN?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S JUST A RICE BALL
NO, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT.
THEN WHAT?
YOU'RE JUST AS BUSY AS ANYONE ELSE
SO, IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT.
YOU LIKE HER...
A-ARE YOU STUPID? WHO'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT AGAIN?!
Gossipmonger!

I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS...
...BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THEY HAD TO OVERCOME A LOT.
I JUST WANTED TO HELP THEM OUT...
BUT THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
AND BESIDES, RIN GETS ALONG PRETTY WELL WITH THEM...
ANYWAY, IT'D BE RUDE OF ME TO STICK MY NOSE INTO THEIR BUSINESS
IT MUST REALLY BE TOUGH BEING A SINGLE MOTHER, HUH?
DAI-CHAN...
UH ..., I THINK SHE TOTALLY MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT I SAID.
FLUSTERED

MOMMY DIDN'T PUT ON HER SHOES YET EITHER.
HUH?
REINA! DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU IF YOU DON'T HURRY, YOU'LL BE LATE?
HUH?
HUH? WHAT? WHAT DID SHE MEAN?
YOU'RE SLOWER THAN ME.
I CAN PUT THEM ON PRETTY QUICKLY
SWISH
HARUKO?
HUH?
AND OF COURSE, WE NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO TALK AFTER THAT

I WROTE IN YOUR CONTACT BOOK THAT I WOULD BE COMING TO PICK YOU UP TODAY, OKAY?
YUP!
SO DON'T LINE UP WITH THE GROUP THAT WALKS HOME, OKAY?
YUP!
GOT IT?
OKAAAY
I'm off!
HUHHH? WHYYY?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHY!
OH, AND DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT WE'RE STAYING AT DAI-CHAN'S PLACE
MY HOME'S A SECRET, SO I'M TAKING THE TRAIN HOME TODAY
HUH? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
YUP!
THAT'S RIGHT
REINA-CHAN, DID YOU COME WITH YOUR MOM?

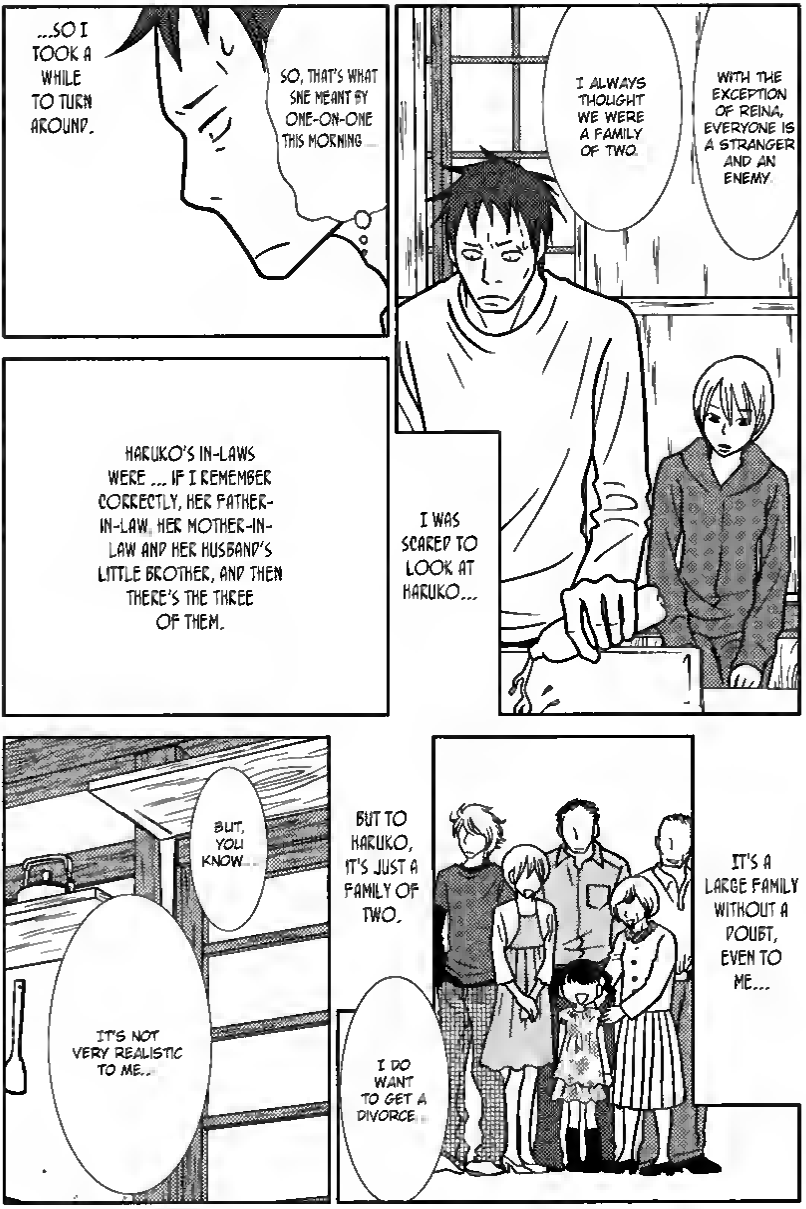



HURRY, DAIKICHI HURRY!
REINA-CHAN'S WAITING
OKAY, OKAY.
REINA-CHAN!
I'M HOME!!
TO BE HONEST, COMING HOME AND HAVING THE FRONT DOOR LIT WAS A HAPPY, REFRESHING FEELING.

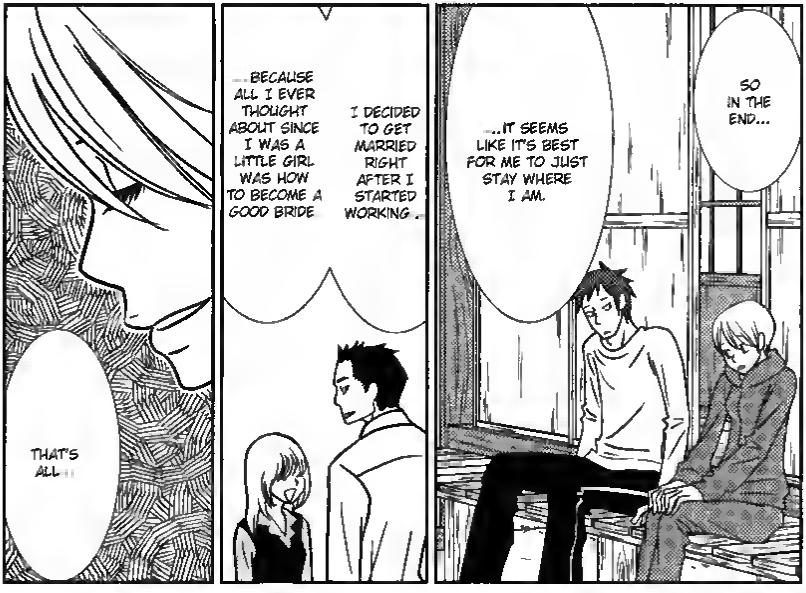
IT'S FINE!
THERE'RE FEWER PEOPLE, SO IT WAS A LOT EASIER THAN USUAL.
SORRY ABOUT HAVING YOU MAKE THE FOOD AGAIN.
AFTER READING TOO MUCH INTO HARUKO'S WORDS, I WAS FEELING DOWN.
It feels like I've barely scratched the surface
AS EXPECTED, HARUKO BEHAVED NORMALLY IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN.
... BUT INSTEAD, IT CAUSED ME TO READ INTO IT EVEN MORE.
WHICH MAY SEEM NATURAL FOR A PARENT TO DO...

HARUKO
I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD, BUT...
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON DOING SOMETHING CRAZY, ARE YOU?
HUH...?
AH! LIKE GETTING A DIVORCE OR SOMETHING?
AHHH... YEAH, THAT.
FOOSH FOOSH

I WAS WORRIED OVER NOTHING.
AH, GEEZ...
FOOSH FOOSH
!!
NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
WELL,
I DO THINK ABOUT IT A LOT...
ACTUALLY, IT'S MORE LIKE I THINK ABOUT IT ALMOST EVERY DAY.
ENEMY ?!
. EVERYONE AROUND THAT PERSON BECOMES THEIR ENEMY TOO
WELL, BECAUSE WITH MY IN-LAWS, WHOEVER MAKES AN ENEMY OUT OF MY HUSBAND...

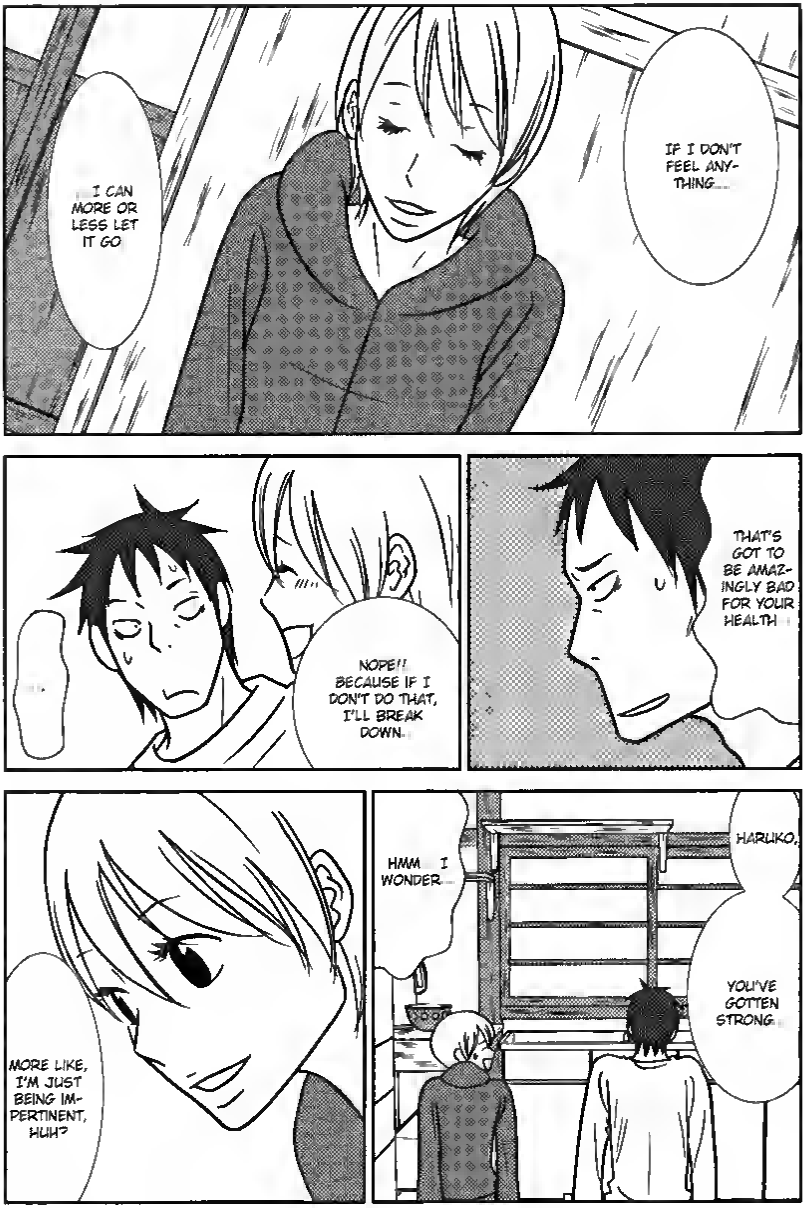

...SO I TOOK A WHILE TO TURN AROUND.
SO, THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT BY ONE-ON-ONE THIS MORNING...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT WE WERE A FAMILY OF TWO.
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REINA, EVERYONE IS A STRANGER AND AN ENEMY.
HARUKO'S IN-LAWS WERE ... IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, HER FATHER-IN-LAW, HER MOTHER-IN-LAW AND HER HUSBAND'S LITTLE BROTHER, AND THEN THERE'S THE THREE OF THEM.
I WAS SCARED TO LOOK AT HARUKO...
BUT, YOU KNOW...
IT'S NOT VERY REALISTIC TO ME...
BUT TO HARUKO, IT'S JUST A FAMILY OF TWO.
I DO WANT TO GET A DIVORCE...
IT'S A LARGE FAMILY WITHOUT A DOUBT, EVEN TO ME...

I WONDER HOW MUCH I'VE HAD TO ENDURE TO FINALLY REACH THAT CONCLUSION
...ESPECIALLY WHEN I THINK ABOUT REINA...
...AND MY ABILITY TO SURVIVE ON MY OWN...


...BECAUSE ALL I EVER THOUGHT ABOUT SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL WAS HOW TO BECOME A GOOD BRIDE
I DECIDED TO GET MARRIED RIGHT AFTER I STARTED WORKING.
...IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEST FOR ME TO JUST STAY WHERE I AM.
SO IN THE END...
THAT'S ALL...

AH,
BUT AS I WANDERED AROUND DOING NOTHING TODAY,
I FELT RELIEVED.
AND NOW IT'S HOW TO PROTECT REINA.
THAT'S ALL.
I THINK I CAN HANG IN THERE FOR REINA'S SAKE.
SORRY ABOUT ALL OF THIS, DAI-CHAN,
AND THANKS.
I'LL GO HOME TO-MORROW.

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED DISCUSSING IT WITH YOUR HUSBAND?
YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING "THE TWO OF YOU"...
KINDA... BUT HE'S ALWAYS WORKING OVER-TIME, SO WE DON'T GET TO TALK MUCH
BOTH YOU AND RIN-CHAN, AND KOUKI-KUN AND HIS MOM... YOU'RE ALL HANGING IN THERE...
SO, BOTH REINA AND I CAN TOO.
AND I'VE BEEN ABLE TO ENDURE AND OVERCOME IT FOR ALL THESE YEARS, SO I'LL DEFINITELY BE FINE FROM HERE ON OUT
WHOA, THAT'S AMAZING... ALWAYS SAYING SHE'LL HANG IN THERE
THAT'S WHY I'LL HANG IN THERE WITH REINA


IF I DON'T FEEL ANY-THING...
...I CAN MORE OR LESS LET IT GO
NOPE!! BECAUSE IF I DON'T DO THAT, I'LL BREAK DOWN.
THAT'S GOT TO BE AMAZ-INGLY BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH
HARUKO,
HMM... I WONDER...
YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONG.
MORE LIKE, I'M JUST BEING IM-PERTINENT, HUH?

Heavy
EEK
I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT TAKING CARE OF BABIES AND STUFF
Zzz
HM
. . AREN'T THERE A LOT OF TIMES WHEN YOU ARE SO MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY DRAINED TO THE POINT THAT YOU JUST WANT TO LAY DOWN AND DIE?
AFTER GIVING BIRTH AND RAISING A CHILD .
YOU KNOW
HUH...? WANT TO DIE?
ESPECIALLY WHEN TAKING CARE OF A BABY
BUT WHEN YOU'RE CONSTANTLY DOING THOSE THINGS.
. IT JUST SUDDENLY BECOMES NATURAL
IT'S LIKE I'VE BECOME AN OLD WOMAN
I HATE THAT FEELING

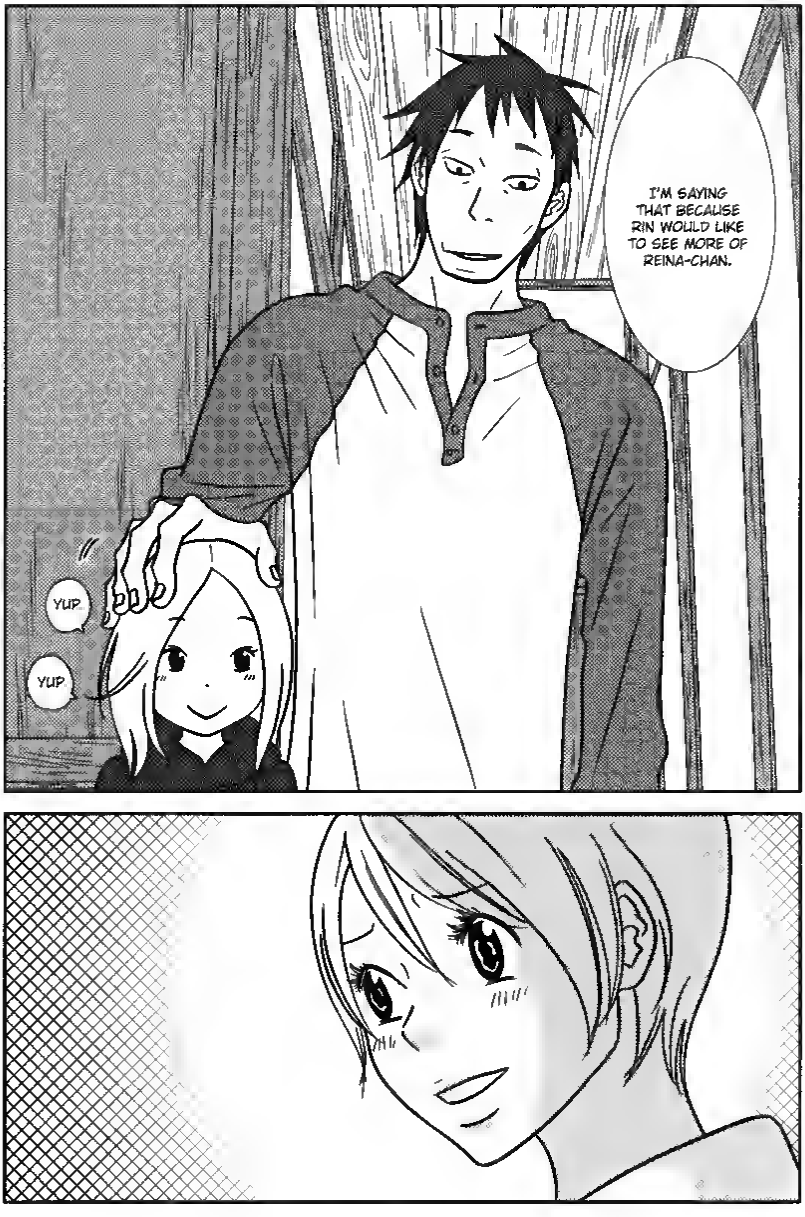
I'D ALWAYS WANT TO STAY YOUNG...
IF IT WERE POSSIBLE...
BECOMING STRONGER SEEMS JUST FINE TO ME.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO BECOME STRONGER...
...AND CUTE, AND BEAUTIFUL FOREVER...

SO I JUST STAYED SILENT.
IT WOULD BE RATHER INSENSITIVE OF ME IF I SAID WHAT I WAS THINKING...
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE HERE SO EARLY.
DADDY'S STILL AT WORK...
AH! MOMMY! I HEAR DADDY'S CAR!
AFTER HARUKO CALLED HER HUSBAND THAT DAY, HE CAME AND PICKED THEM UP (EVEN THOUGH SHE SAID SHE WOULD GO HOME ON HER OWN).
WHAT IS THAT CHILD DOING RUNNING OUT THERE BY HERSELF?!
REINA!
REINA, WAIT!
IT'S DEFINITELY DADDY!

HUH?
AW
DADDY!
I WAS WORRIED, REINA
DADDY!
WELL...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD'VE COME HOME AT THIS TIME IF YOU WANTED TO
IS THAT SUP-POSED TO BE A YES OR A NO?!
STUPID HIDEYU-KI-SAN...
YOU KNOW WHAT, DADDY?
IT'S HARD WORKING FOR A COMPANY, YOU KNOW...
He can hear you!
HEY, DON'T SAY THAT!

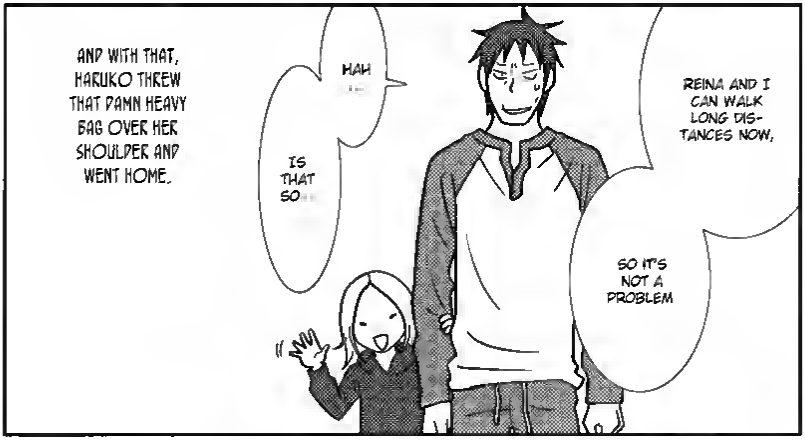
WHAT CAN I DO TO REPAY YOU.?
NOT AT ALL. IT WASN'T—
SWISH SWISH
WHOAAA, I'M DEFINITELY NOT DRESSED APPROPRIATELY!
I WAS ASHAMED AND SWEATING UNNECESSARILY WHILE I STOOD IN FRONT OF SUCH A PROPER PERSON.
I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE HARUKO HAS CAUSED.
HER HUSBAND WHO USUALLY COULDN'T GO HOME EVERY NIGHT BECAUSE HE HAD TO WORK OVERTIME...
GOT OFF EARLY AND CAME FLYING HERE WITH A BOX OF CAKES!
...IN THIS SITUATION...
DADDY SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT MORE!
IS HE?!
HE'S NOT VERY THOUGHTFUL, IS HE...?
NOT THOUGHTFUL AT ALL!
HARUKO PROBABLY HAD MORE SHE WANTED TO SAY, BUT...
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, DAI-CHAN

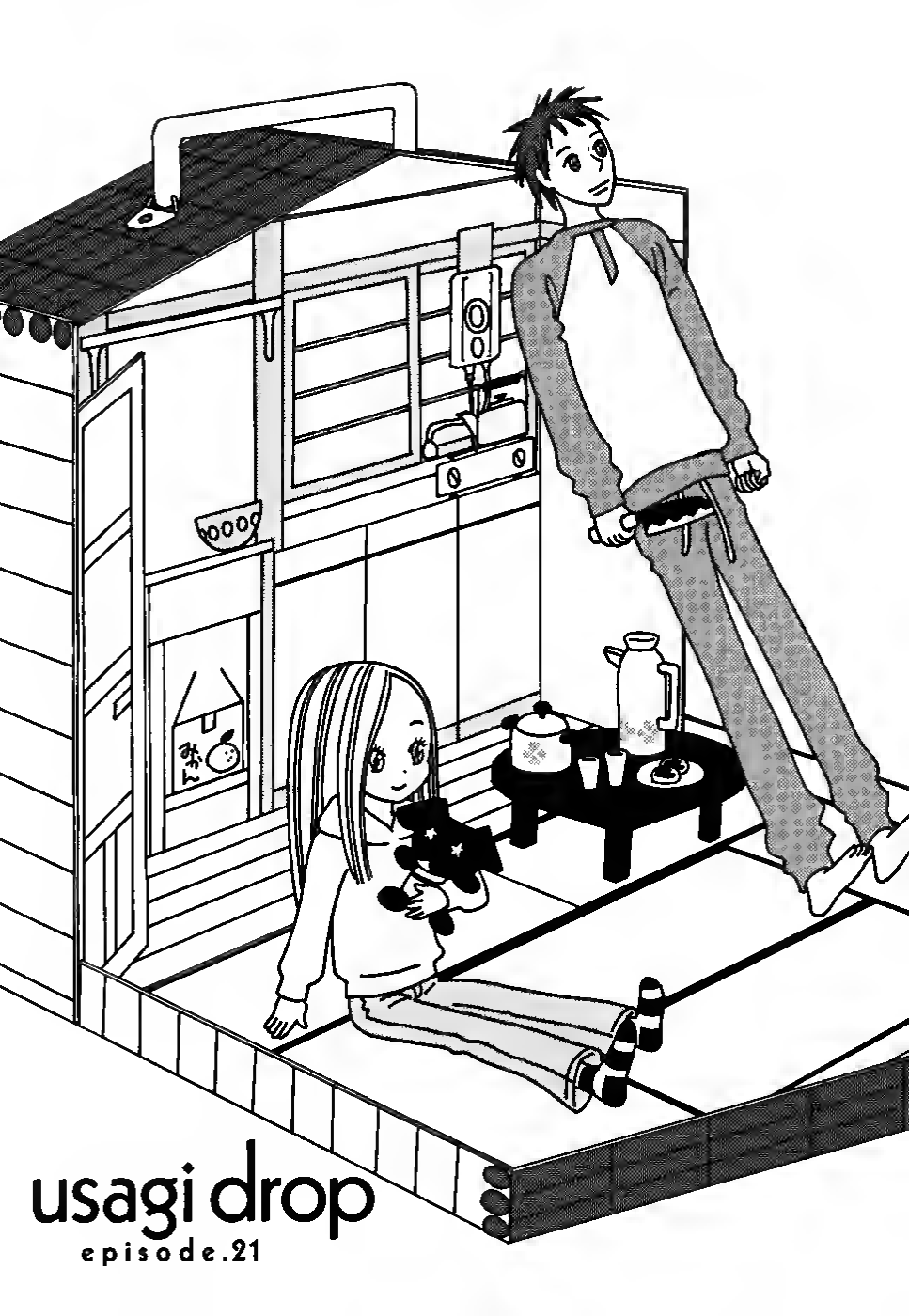
YOU CAN COME BY WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT
I'M LIVING WITH MY FEELINGS ALL LOCKED UP INSIDE!!
...IT WAS PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE.
I WON'T TROUBLE YOU ANYMORE.
NO WAY...
NAW...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT


I'M SAYING THAT BECAUSE RIN WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OF REINA-CHAN.
YUP
YUP

WHEN'S THE NEXT TIME WE'RE COMING?
WH- WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, REINA...
DAI-CHAN
THANKS
MOMMY, MOMMY!!
WHY DON'T YOU PACK LIGHTER NEXT TIME, HUH?
YOU DON'T NEED ALL OF THAT.
MURMURED JUST YESTERDAY SHE'D LIKE TO STAY...
YOUNG FOREVER IF IT WERE POSSIBLE.
THE HARUKO WHO ALWAYS CRIED AS A CHILD...

IMPOS-
SIBLE...
A LADY
ALWAYS HAS
THIS MUCH
LUGGAGE
BE-
SIDES
...


AND WITH THAT,
HARUKO THREW
THAT DAMN HEAVY
BAG OVER HER
SHOULDER AND
WENT HOME.
HAH
...
IS
THAT
SO...
REINA AND I
CAN WALK
LONG DIS-
TANCES NOW,
SO IT'S
NOT A
PROBLEM



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CULTURAL FESTIVAL
THERE'S A CULTURAL FESTIVAL AT RIN'S SCHOOL TODAY.
1-B
AH!
DAI-KICHIII!
OH...
HEY, HEY, DAIKICHI . .
CAN YOU TELL WHICH DRAWING'S MINE?

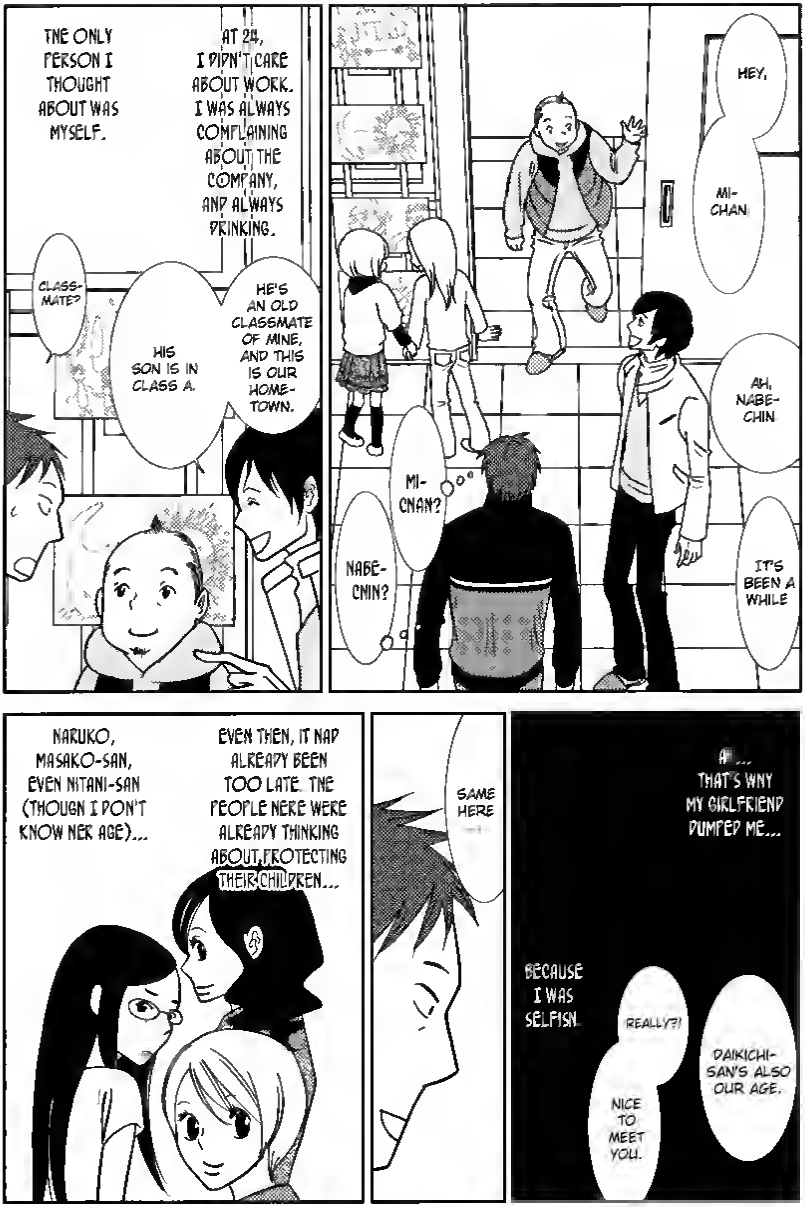
Don't go bringing up unnecessary things!
Damn it!
YUP!
IT'S ALWAYS MY DADDY WHO COMES TOO, YOU KNOW ..
UHH? HE'S NOT?!
HE'S NOT ACTUALLY MY FATHER, THOUGH.
RIN-CHAN! HEY, RIN-CHAN!
IT'S ALWAYS YOUR FATHER WHO COMES, HUH?
WOW, REALLY?
YOU KNOW WHAT?
WOW!
IT'S AMAZING!
RIN-CHAN'S PICTURE IS THE BEST IN CLASS B!
I'M SURE YOU CAN BECOME A MANGA ARTIST
WHAT? NO WAAAAY

Let me see! Let me see!
Wow, he's handsome!
DADDY!
SAYA-KA...
THERE YOU ARE...
OH!
IT'S SAYAKA-CHAN'S DAD!!
THAT'S HER FATHER...?
Sorry I'm late!
WOW!
HUH?
HUH?
Sayaka-chan's father is such a great guy.
WHAT A TOTALLY DIFFERENT REACTION FROM WHEN I CAME IN!
I THINK I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE...
YOU KNOW WHAT?
It wasn't on TV or anything like that though
...

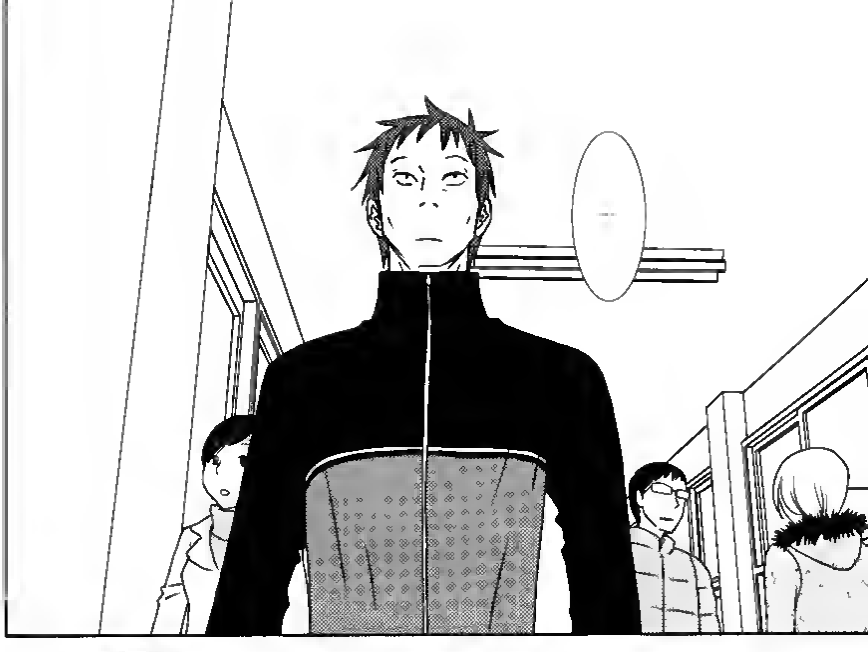
WHAT A HAPPY COINCI-DENCE
REGARDLESS OF HOW OLD THIS GUY IS, HE MAKES ME FEEL BAD ABOUT MYSELF.
AH
REALLY?
SAYAKA-CHAN'S FATHER IS 31 YEARS OLD, JUST LIKE YOU, DAIKICHI.
WHAT?! REALLY?!
!!
IT WAS JUST FOR A BIT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER
WHOA! THAT'S INCRED-IBLE!!
Hey! Sayaka!
DADDY'S A MODEL!!
IT'S NO WONDER WITH A FACE AND BODY LIKE THAT

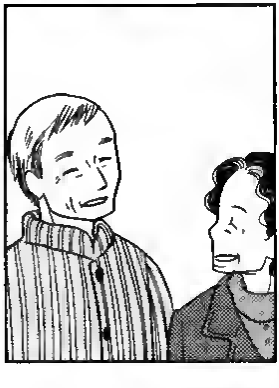
REALLY?!
shriek
WHOA!!
What to do!
wriggle
wriggle
MEN'S
I HAVE A FEELING I'VE SEEN YOU IN MY COMPANY CATALOG!!
And frequently too.
How embarrassing!
I'm indebted to your company!
I wore anything they asked me to. There wasn't any I didn't like.
AH!!
HE'S QUITE A MERRY PERSON..
THAT WAS PROBABLY ME, THEN!!
LUM.
BUT WHAT COMPANY WOULD THAT BE?
SORRY,
I'M ALMOST CERTAIN IT WAS HIM SINCE I WAS LINED UP IN THE CATALOG RIGHT NEXT TO HIM.
MEN'S WORK CLOTHES
THE SAMPLE DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE PHOTO SHOOT THAT DAY, SO BEING THE LUCKY NEW GUY I WAS USED FOR IT INSTEAD.
GRIN
I HAVEN'T DONE ANY MODELING WORK RECENTLY.
SO I WAS REALLY HAPPY REMINISCING ABOUT IT.

I CURRENTLY WORK AS AN OFFICE MANAGER AT THE SAME COMPANY.
AH, I SEE...
THAT'S SUCH A WASTE...
YOU'RE STILL SO...
The wrinkle that was supposed to be there.
MEN'S WOR CLOTHES
The work clothes didn't look quite right on me, so they had a bad reputations or rather a reputation of being like military uniforms.
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US WAS SO GREAT THAT I COULD NEVER FORGET!
I COULDN'T PREDICT MY WORK HOURS OR MY SALARY AT THAT JOB...
...SO WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS BORN, I HAD TO QUIT
AH...
IF WE'RE THE SAME AGE NOW, THAT MEANS HE WAS 24 WHEN I WAS 24!
WHAT WAS I DOING AT 24?


THE ONLY PERSON I THOUGHT ABOUT WAS MYSELF.
AT 24, I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT WORK. I WAS ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE COMPANY, AND ALWAYS DRINKING.
CLASS-MATE?
HIS SON IS IN CLASS A.
HE'S AN OLD CLASSMATE OF MINE, AND THIS IS OUR HOME-TOWN.
HEY, MI-CHAN.
AH, NABE-CHIN.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
MI-CHAN?
NABE-CHIN?
NARUKO, MASAKO-SAN, EVEN NITANI-SAN (THOUGH I DON'T KNOW HER AGE)...
EVEN THEN, IT HAD ALREADY BEEN TOO LATE. THE PEOPLE HERE WERE ALREADY THINKING ABOUT PROTECTING THEIR CHILDREN...
SAME HERE
AH... THAT'S WHY MY GIRLFRIEND DUMPED ME...
BECAUSE I WAS SELFISH.
REALLY?!
DAIKICHI-SAN'S ALSO OUR AGE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

EVERY-ONE'S SO TOUGH..
AH!
IT'S AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE SHOPPING DISTRICT...
I RUN A BUTCHER SHOP
GREAT, WE CAN BE PALS!
AH... YEAH.
DAIKICHI-SAN ARE YOU THE ONE WHO ALWAYS COMES TO THESE SCHOOL EVENTS?
I KNOW, I KNOW!!
I'M REALLY GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
ME, TOO! ME, TOO!
WOW, REALLY?
THAT'S THE STORE I GO TO A LOT WITH RIN TO GET CROQUETTES
...I THINK I JUST MADE SOME PADDY-FRIENDS...
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT...
CHATTER
Let's hang out again some-time
I LIKE TO HELP OUT ON WORKING AT THE SHOP. I ALWAYS COME TO THESE EVENTS.
Give me your phone number
CHATTER





THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE HERE...

WELL, THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED, THOUGH...
WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE VARIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EVERYONE'S AGE, OCCUPATION AND HOMETOWN, THEY ALL VARY...
THEN YOU LOOK AT THEIR EXTENDED FAMILIES AND THEY ALL DIFFER FROM LARGE TO SMALL.
WHEN I WAS WORKING, I THOUGHT THE WORKING WORLD WAS BIG.
BUT IN SOME WAYS, THIS WORLD IS MUCH BIGGER.
...
AH, IT'S DAIKICHI-SAN.

HUH?!
HUH?
WHOA, MI-CHAN!!
ACK!!
AH..
I'M OKAY, I'M OKAY.
I THOUGHT THERE WAS STILL ONE MORE STEP.
CAN SOMEONE REALLY BE *THAT* CLUMSY?
MI-CHAN, YOU'RE SO CLUMSY
WHAT?!
THESE TYPES OF PEOPLE ARE DEFINITELY MODELS!
It's so unfair
...WHO IS THIS ADORABLY CLUMSY...
HE'S HANDSOME AND SEEMS LIKE A NICE FRIENDLY GUY...

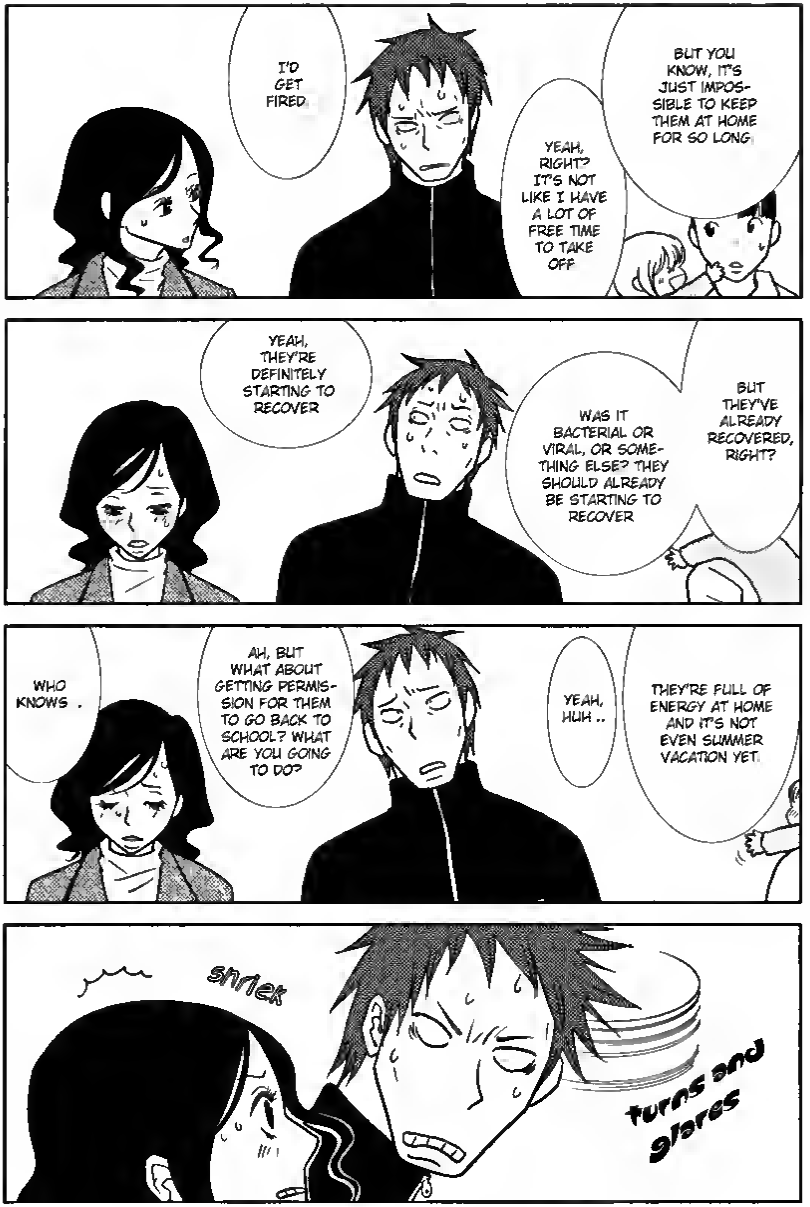
HELLO
AH, DAIKICHI-SAN
HELLO
I'M A BIT WORRIED THAT KOUKI ISN'T DRESSED PROPERLY...
IT SEEMS THE CHILDREN HAVE LEFT FOR THE GYM ALREADY.
IT SURE GOT COLD QUICKLY, HUH?
YES...

I HOPE THEY'RE DRESSED PROPERLY
OH, THEY MUST BE PREPARING FOR THE SKIT, RIGHT?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT RIN TOO.
YUP ..
KINDA SURPRIS-ING...
WOW,
HE'S GOOD
REALLY?
OH!
IT'S KOUKI'S DRAWING.
YEAH!
THE KID FROM CLASS A.
AH...
WELL, HE'S PUT IN EVERY LITTLE DETAIL

AHH!
THE TEACHER'S GONNA BE SO MAD!
UM, EVERY-ONE'S ALREADY GONE TO THE GYM, YOU KNOW...
HUH?
REA-LLY?
CRAP!
AHHH, BOYS ARE JUST...
BABIES ARE SO NICE...
SHE'S ALMOST 10 MONTHS
HOW OLD IS SHE?
SHE'S SO CUTE!

THAT'S A FUNNY EXPRESSION.
Ga ga ba puuu!
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES
WHEN YOU LOOK AT SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD, IT "BRINGS BACK MEMORIES", HUH?
I WONDER IF IT'S NORMAL TO THINK THAT WAY IF YOU'VE RAISED YOUR KID SINCE THEY WERE A BABY?
OR IF IT'S JUST WOMEN WHO THINK THAT WAY.
IT'S KINDA MYSTERIOUS ...
SO, LISTEN TO THIS!

LAST WEEK, MY KIDS CAUGHT THE FLU...
AND IT WAS DURING OUR TRIP TOO!
I'M FEELING REALLY RUN DOWN
OH!
WHOA, REALLY? THAT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH
IT'S ALREADY THAT SEASON, HUH?
HM? IN OUR FAMILY, WE SEND OUR KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL RIGHT AFTER THEIR FEVERS ARE GONE
WHOA, I JUST OVERHEARD SOMETHING REALLY TERRIBLE.
OTHERWISE IT'LL SPREAD, RIGHT?
EVEN AFTER THEIR FEVER GOES AWAY, THEY STILL NEED TO REST FOR TWO DAYS


I'D GET FIRED.
BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP THEM AT HOME FOR SO LONG.
YEAH, RIGHT? IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME TO TAKE OFF
YEAH, THEY'RE DEFINITELY STARTING TO RECOVER
BUT THEY'VE ALREADY RECOVERED, RIGHT?
WAS IT BACTERIAL OR VIRAL, OR SOMETHING ELSE? THEY SHOULD ALREADY BE STARTING TO RECOVER
WHO KNOWS .
AH, BUT WHAT ABOUT GETTING PERMISSION FOR THEM TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
YEAH, HUH ..
THEY'RE FULL OF ENERGY AT HOME AND IT'S NOT EVEN SUMMER VACATION YET.
sniff
turns and glares

LET'S LEAVE FOR A BIT.
PAT
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IF IT SPREADS.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY CAN TELL WHO THEY GOT IT FROM.

LUM...
I...
...
THAT'S WHY...
...I WAS DISHEARTENED...
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM...

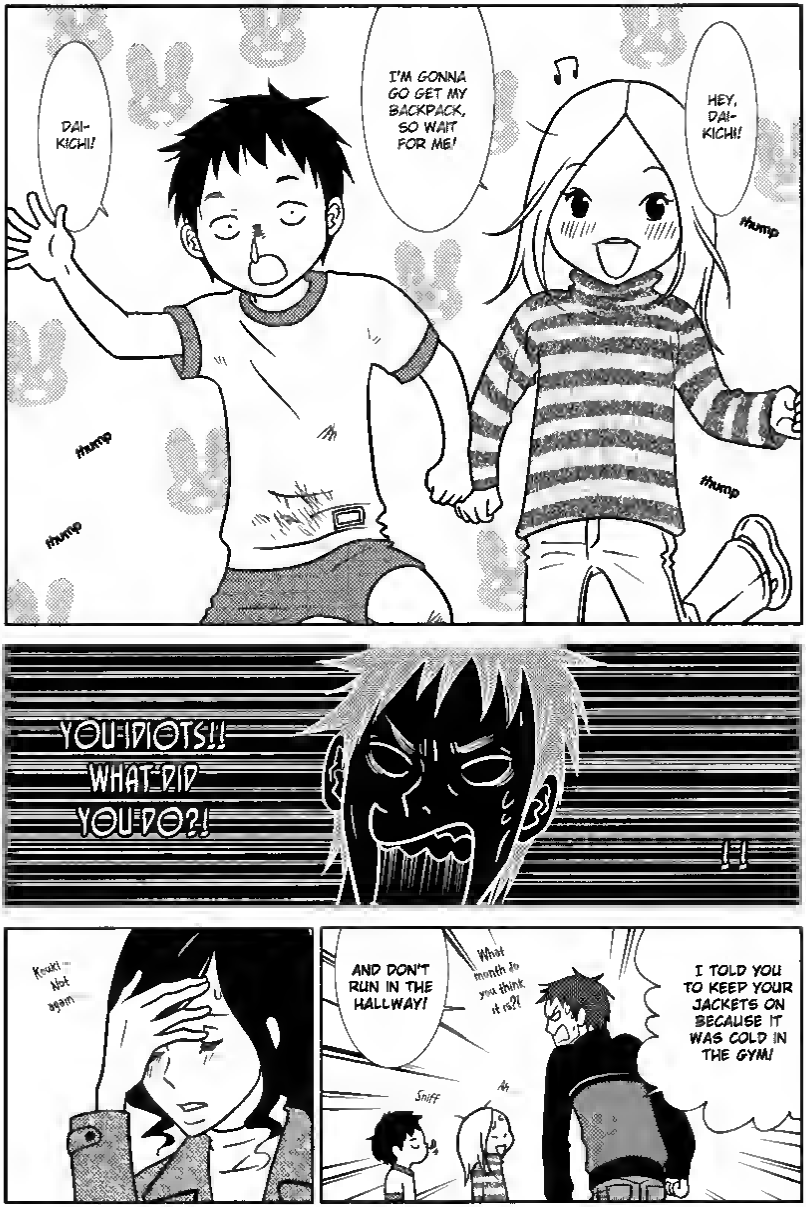
FOR SOME REASON...
...MY HEART'S STILL THROB-BING
!!
THERE'S ALSO A CHANCE THAT THEY THEM-SELVES COULD CATCH A COLD DURING THE WINTER TOO...
AND TAKING TIME OFF WORK IS FROWNED UPON
UNTIL PARENTS RECEIVE PERMISSION FROM THE SCHOOL TO ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO COME BACK AFTER THEY'VE HAD THE FLU, PAR-ENTS NEED TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM WORK AS WELL

IT'S THE SAME FOR ME TOO.
AH... YEAH...
I UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING, BUT...
...JUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO WORK, DOESN'T MAKE IT SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM... BUT...
BUT WHAT IF IT ACTUALLY HAD BEEN THE FLU...?
...SHE GOT BETTER IN JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS, SO I DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE TOO MUCH TIME OFF WORK.
WHEN I'M CAUGHT A COLD LAST WINTER...
AND MORE THAN THAT, WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE IF I'D CAUGHT THE FLU TOO...?
HOW WOULD MY COMPANY HAVE REACTED?

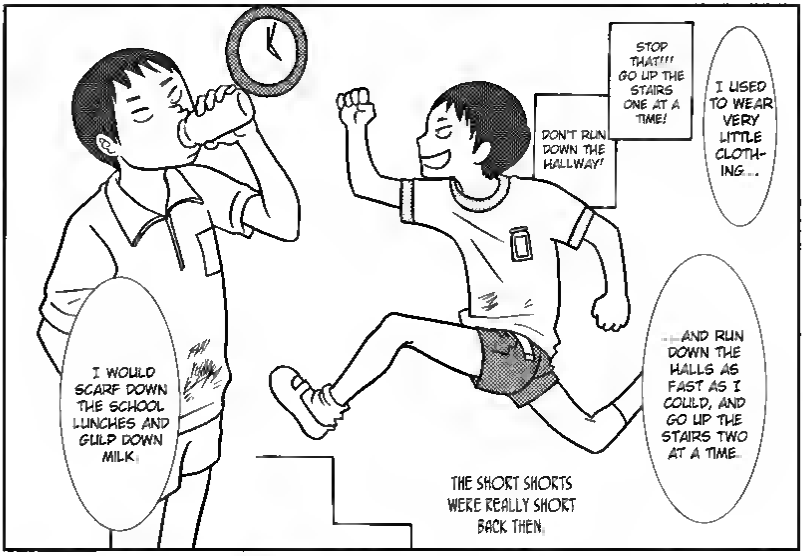
IN ALL HONESTY THOUGH, IT TOOK EVERYTHING WE HAD FOR THE TWO OF US TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO ONE ANOTHER LAST YEAR, SO I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.
SCARY ...!
After a bath...
beep beep
Kouki, your jacket!
Don't need it!
BUT EVEN SO, KOUKI JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND
WHOA JUST LIKE I WAS IN MY YOUNGER DAYS.
AH, HA.
EVERY DAY IN WINTER IS LIKE A BATTLE.
HM... I GUESS THAT'S TRUE...
I SUPPOSE SO.
IT'S JUST SO FULL OF SUSPENSE!
THEN... I FINALLY BEGIN TO RELAX.
AND I THINK TO MYSELF "I CAN SOMEHOW MANAGE TO MAKE IT THROUGH THIS YEAR TOO."
...I HEAR THE SOUNDS OF SPRING APPROACHING.
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEASON, WHEN I THINK TO MYSELF THAT I JUST CAN'T KEEP UP ANYMORE...

DO YOU THINK IT'LL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF WE GET A VACCINATION FOR THE FLU NOW?
PROBABLY HOPEFULLY, THE HOSPITAL STILL HAS SOME IN STOCK.
OVER-WHELM-ING.
WINTER REALLY IS EMOTION-ALLY..
THE ADULTS HERE...
...HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING LIKE THIS FOR SO LONG IN ORDER TO SURVIVE...
UMM
YES?
AHAHA
RIGHT?
WAIT, I SHOULD GET HER VACCI-NATED, RIGHT?
WELL, THAT...
AH, THAT'S TRUE
AND APPOINTMENTS AT HOSPITALS FILL UP QUICKLY, SO IT'S BEST TO HURRY.
IT'S JUST THAT, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE IT BECOMES EFFECTIVE,

.PROBABLY DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU THINK .
...AND ON YOUR LIFE-STYLE
THERE ARE BOTH PROS AND CONS .
AFTER CONSIDERING ALL THE FACTS, IT'S STILL YOUR DECISION IN THE END.
ARGH!! THIS IS GOING TO BE TOUGH!
TO BE HONEST, I'VE NEVER PUT ANY THOUGHT INTO THIS BEFORE...
...
I'M REALLY NO GOOD, AFTER ALL.
DAI-KICHI!!!
DAI-KICHI!!!
PEDIATRI-CIAN'S OFFICE??
FLU SHOTS ARE MANDATORY AT THE PEDIATRICIAN'S OFFICE MY FAMILY VISITS..
SO WE GET ONE EVERY YEAR.
HAA .

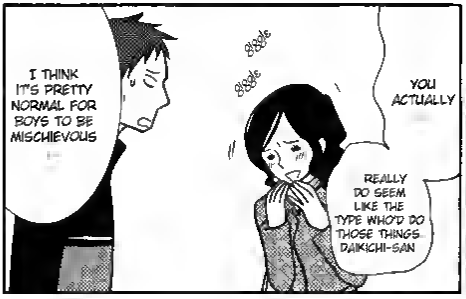

DAI-KICHI!
I'M GONNA GO GET MY BACKPACK, SO WAIT FOR ME!
HEY, DAI-KICHI!
thump
thump
thump
thump
YOU IDIOTS!! WHAT DID YOU DO?!
!!
Kouki— Not again
AND DON'T RUN IN THE HALLWAY!
What month do you think it is?!
I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR JACKETS ON BECAUSE IT WAS COLD IN THE GYM!
Sniff
Ah

UM. .
SURE.
HEY, DAI-KICHI!
IS IT OKAY IF KOUKI-KUN COMES OVER TO PLAY AFTER THIS?
HEY, I JUST TOLD YOU NOT TO RUN!
SO CARE-LESS....
IT'S NICE THAT THEY HAVE HEAT-ING IN THE CLASS-ROOMS,
BUT WHEN THE CHILDREN GO TO THE GYM, THEY GET UN-NECESSARILY CARELESS.
I CAN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE THAT WAY....
WELL....


I WOULD SCARF DOWN THE SCHOOL LUNCHES AND GULP DOWN MILK.
THE SHORT SHORTS WERE REALLY SHORT BACK THEN.
DON'T RUN DOWN THE HALLWAY!
STOP THAT!!! GO UP THE STAIRS ONE AT A TIME!
I USED TO WEAR VERY LITTLE CLOTHING...
...AND RUN DOWN THE HALLS AS FAST AS I COULD, AND GO UP THE STAIRS TWO AT A TIME.

DAIKICHI-SAN
DID YOU REALLY DO ALL THOSE THINGS...?
SSSSH
SSSSH

I DID THE SAME THINGS I'M SCOLDING THESE KIDS FOR BACK IN THE DAY.
IT FEELS REALLY WEIRD.


I THINK IT'S PRETTY NORMAL FOR BOYS TO BE MISCHIEVOUS.
YOU ACTUALLY REALLY DO SEEM LIKE THE TYPE WHO'D DO THOSE THINGS DAIKICHI-SAN
SSSSH
SSSSH

ACTUALLY, KOUKI DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A STRANGER AT ALL
WHAT IS THIS FEELING...?!
...IF DAIKICHI-SAN WAS ALSO LIKE THAT...
SORRY!
AHAHAHA AHAHA
AHAHAHA
SOR...
I'M ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT HOW KOUKI WILL TURN OUT, BUT...
...THEN I FEEL A BIT RELIEVED.
!!!

HUHH-HHH?!
HUH?!
...ISN'T VERY "RELIEV-ING."
THAT REALLY
RIN IS GETTING THE VACCINATION FOR SURE, BUT ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT I FALL SICK, I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
...SINCE IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.
...GETTING VACCINATED IS PROB-ABLY FOR THE BEST...
I THINK...

...BUT THAT'S NOT GOOD!
WE'VE SEEN HEALTHY SO FAR, SO I NEVER GAVE THIS ANY THOUGHT...
...FOR HER TO GET CLINGY IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE...
IT'S UNUSUAL
Don't walk on the side of the street with the cars!
WHAT...? KOUKI'S HERE TOO, SO WHY DON'T YOU WALK WITH HIM?
I DON'T WANNA!
I DON'T WANNA!!
WHY DON'T THE GUYS GO TOGETHER AND THE GIRLS GO TOGETHER?
HUH?
ISN'T RIN-CHAN'S FACE A BIT RED?

...
WHAT A MYSTERIOUSLY NICE FRAGRANCE!!!
WHAT?!
LET ME SEE YOUR NECK
I THINK YOUR HAND IS WARM TOO
I THINK RIN-CHAN PROBABLY HAS A FEVER
HUH...?
IT MIGHT GO UP TOO
HUH ...?!

usagi drop

Super Popular!
The heartwarming story of Rin and Daikichi's life
North winds blew,
hard winter arrives!
But right off the bat
Rin catches a cold?!
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Yumi Unita

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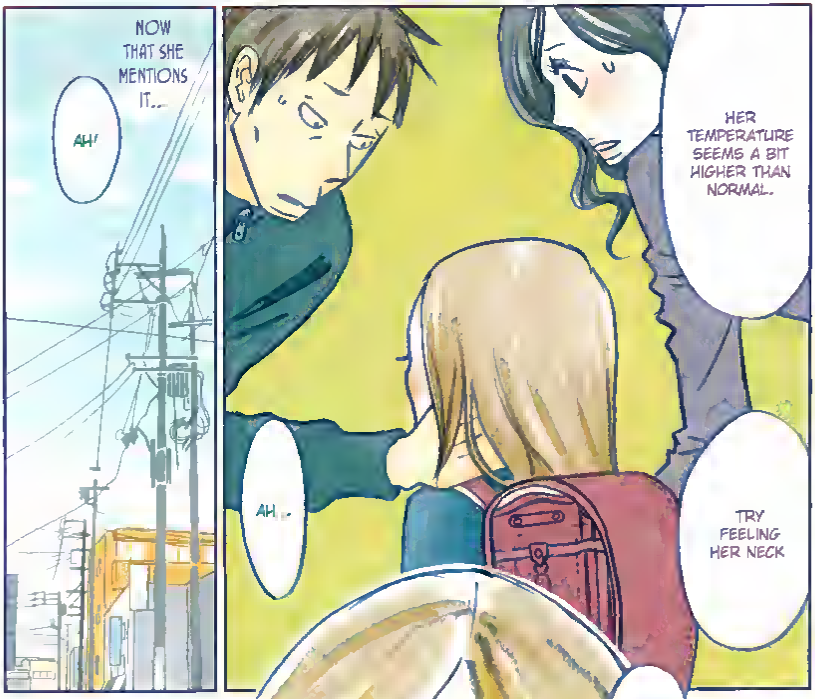
宇仁田ゆみ



うさぎドロップ

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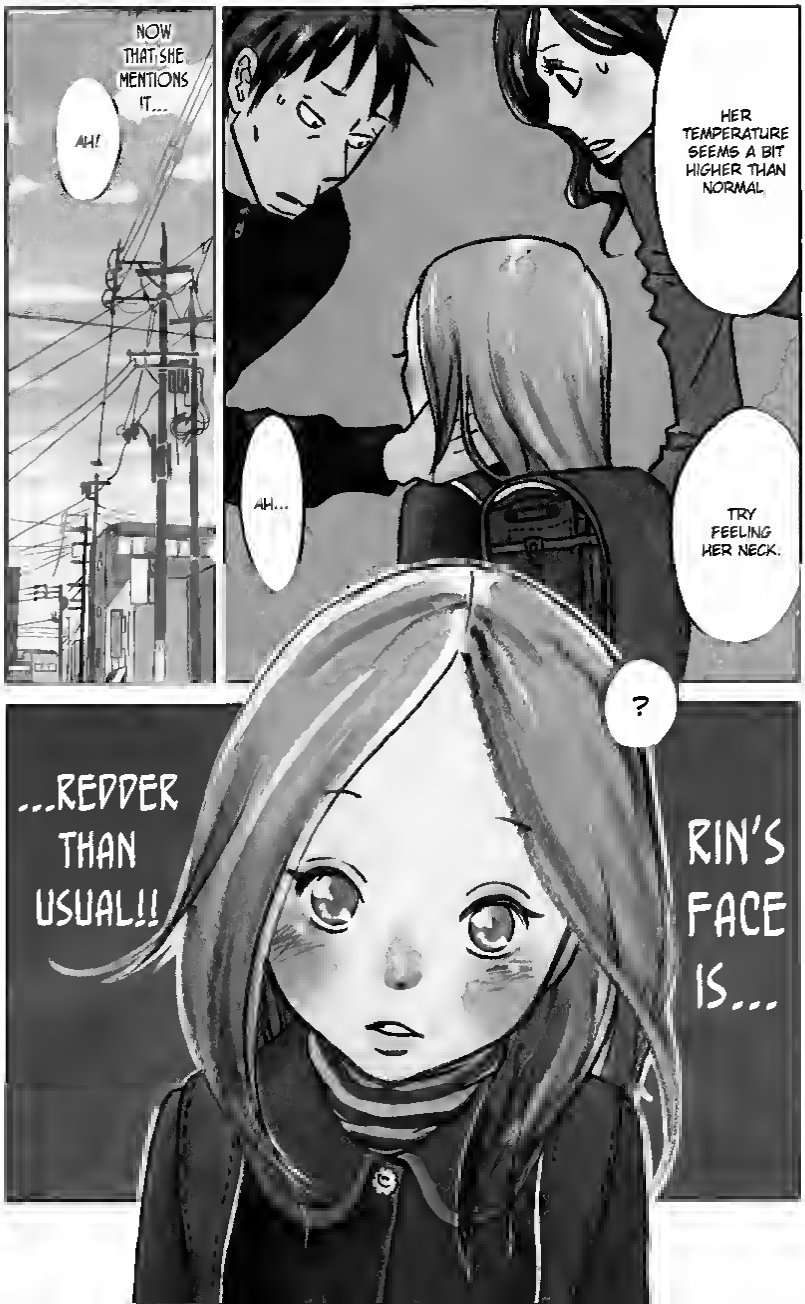
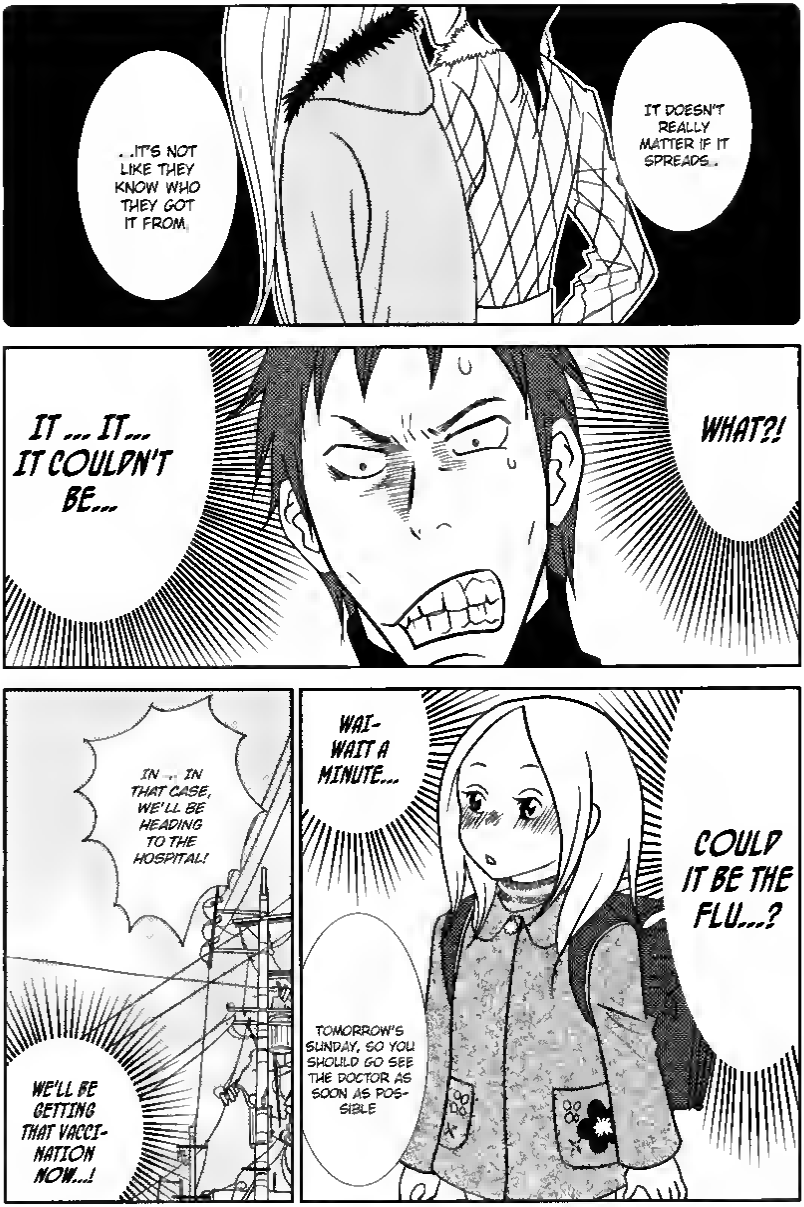

NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT...
AH!
HER TEMPERATURE SEEMS A BIT HIGHER THAN NORMAL.
AH...
TRY FEELING HER NECK.
?
RIN'S FACE IS...
...REDDER THAN USUAL!!


..IT'S NOT LIKE THEY KNOW WHO THEY GOT IT FROM.
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IF IT SPREADS..
IT ... IT... IT COULDN'T BE...
WHAT?!
IN .. IN THAT CASE, WE'LL BE HEADING TO THE HOSPITAL!
WE'LL BE GETTING THAT VACCINATION NOW...!
WAI- WAIT A MINUTE...
TOMORROW'S SUNDAY, SO YOU SHOULD GO SEE THE DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
COULD IT BE THE FLU...?

IN ANY CASE, IT WOULD BE BEST IF HER FAMILY MEMBERS WORE MASKS.
OKAY...
MAKE SURE RIN-CHAN DRINKS LOTS OF FLUIDS.
OKAY...
THANK GOD!!
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE FLU.
NOPE.
SHE'LL RECOVER QUICKLY IF SHE TAKES HER MEDICINE AND RESTS.
THANK GOD, IT'S JUST A COLD.
WE'LL BE HAVING UDON FOR DINNER
OKAY...

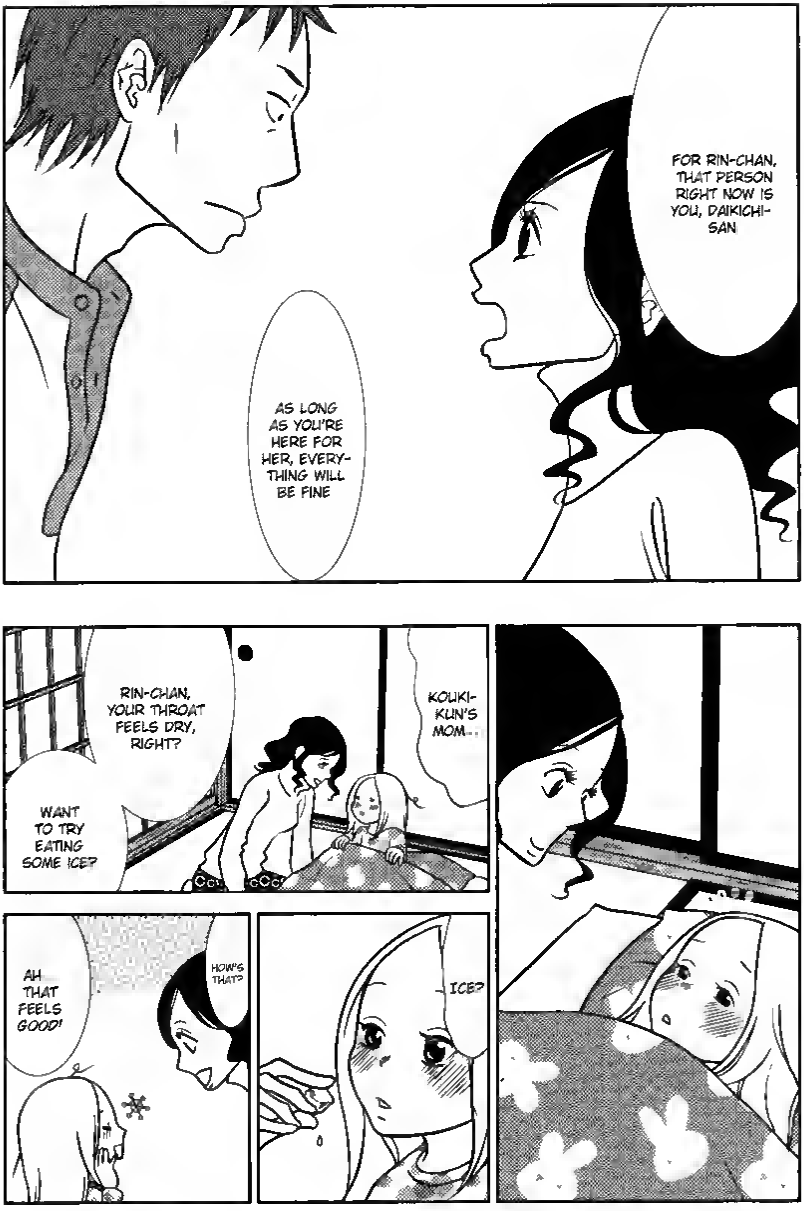
I have this...
...weird feeling...
...right here...
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE...
Yeah...
Sorry...
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW, RIN?
OH?
UP UNTIL BEFORE, HER FACE WAS BRIGHT RED, BUT NOW SHE SEEMS PALE.
OR ACTUALLY GREEN...?
OR IS IT YELLOW...?
Yeah...
THE DOCTOR SAID IT WAS A STOMACH BUG, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO EAT.
Gulp...
DO IT IN THE SINK!!
Ugh...
My spit is...
RIN?!
...taste in my mouth...
There's a weird...
Bai-kuchi...

IS ANYONE HOME?
NITANI-SAN!!
I'M SORRY FOR COMING SO EARLY.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HAVING A HARD TIME WITH SHOPPING AND THINGS...
What's up with that face and hair?
ACK! I'M SO SORRY..
HOW'S RIN-CHAN DOING?
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE FLU, BUT...
KOUKI, YOU MIGHT CATCH IT, SO JUST WATCH TV OVER THERE.
OOKAAY
QUIETLY

SHE FINALLY FELL ASLEEP...
BUT SHE'LL PROBABLY WAKE UP AGAIN SOON...
HER FEVER KEEPS GOING UP...
SHE CAN'T SLEEP VERY LONG...
SHE DOESN'T PERSPIRE AT ALL EITHER.
AH... SHE DID HAVE A BIT OF A FEVER YESTERDAY TOO, RIGHT?
HAS SHE BEEN ABLE TO DRINK ANY-THING?
I WAS TOLD TO AT LEAST GET HER TO DRINK SOME SPORTS DRINKS...
...BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO
SHE THROWS IT UP RIGHT AWAY...
SHE EVEN THROWS UP THE MEDICINE THAT'S SUP-POSED TO HELP HER STOP THROW-ING UP...
I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S WORKING...
SHE WON'T EAT OR DRINK...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY-MORE...

IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE...
...YOU CAN'T START PANICKING, DAIKICHI-SAN.
HUH...?
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
!!
IF YOU CAN'T STAY CALM...
...HOW CAN YOU GIVE RIN ANY RE-ASSUR-ANCE?
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL. YOU CAN DO IT!
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...
I'VE NEVER SEEN RIN THIS WAY BEFORE...
...

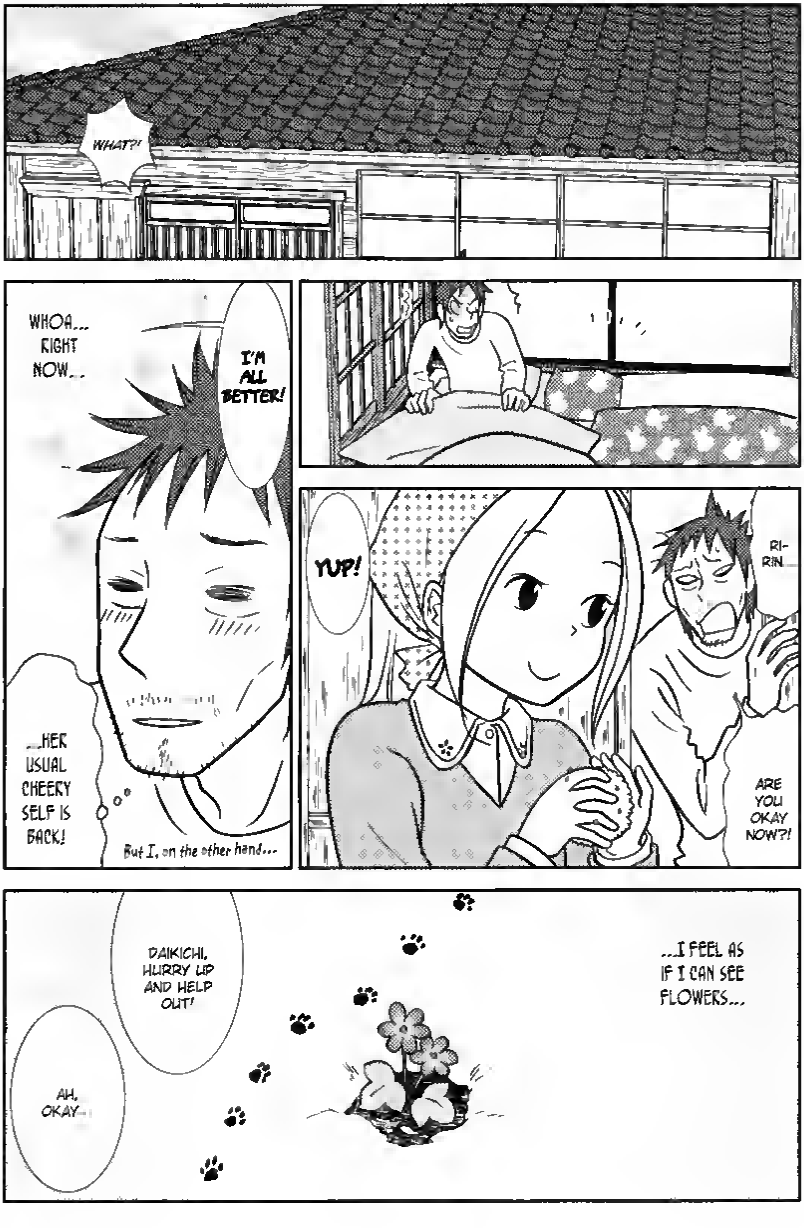
WHEN CHILDREN ARE ABOUT TO HAVE A HIGH FEVER, THEY GET CLINGY AND BEHAVE SPOILED...
...EVEN THOUGH SUBCONSCIOUSLY...
ON THE WAY HOME FROM THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL WHEN RIN-CHAN GOT SEPARATED FROM YOU, YOU WERE FINE.
?
CHILDREN HAVE THE ABILITY TO KNOW WHO IS ABLE TO HELP THEM. .
..WHICH I THINK IS AN ABILITY THEY NEED IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.
KOUKI WAS LIKE THAT TOO...
...Now that I think about it
THAT'S UNEXPECTED...
THAT'S WHY, WHEN CHILDREN ARE TROUBLED OR FEEL UNCERTAIN...
. . THEY CLING TO THAT PERSON.


FOR RIN-CHAN, THAT PERSON RIGHT NOW IS YOU, DAIKICHI-SAN
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE FOR HER, EVERY-THING WILL BE FINE
RIN-CHAN, YOUR THROAT FEELS DRY, RIGHT?
WANT TO TRY EATING SOME ICE?
KOUKI-KUN'S MOM...
AH THAT FEELS GOOD!
HOW'S THAT?
ICE?

IF YOU TRY TO EAT FOOD RIGHT AWAY, YOU'LL HAVE AN UPSET STOMACH.
AFTER A BIT MORE ICE, LET'S EAT SOME FOOD, OKAY?
OKAY
DAI-KICHI -SAN,
KEEP IT DOWN!
AH... SORRY...
IS RIN AWAKE ?!
SORRY, I WAS IN THE BATH-ROOM!
AND IF IT HURTS ANYWHERE OR ANYTHING, LET ME KNOW RIGHT AWAY, OKAY?
OKAY.
WE HAVE SOMETHING SWEET AND DELICIOUS BEING COOLED RIGHT NOW
OKAY
IN A FEW DAYS, THIS WON'T HAVE BEEN MUCH OF A BIG DEAL...
THE MEDICINE SEEMS TO BE WORKING PROPERLY.
...AND HAS BECOME MORE TALK-ATIVE.
SORRY... I NEED TO TAKE ONE MORE DAY OFF..
SHE'S BEEN ABLE TO EAT A BIT...
IF ANY-THING HAPPENS, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL.
BY EVE-NING, SHE WAS ABLE TO FALL ASLEEP.
FROM WHAT NITANI-SAN TAUGHT ME, RIN WAS ABLE TO DRINK SIPS OF WATER AND TAKE HER MEDICINE...

RIN'S STRENGTH WAS SAPPED...
...BY THE FEVER.
I'M FINE
IF I JUST GET SOME REST, I'LL BE GOOD IN NO TIME.
WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN ME?
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE RIN?
THIS COLD WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTHING FOR ME...

SHIT!
SHIT!
SHIIIT...!
WHAT IS THIS IRRITATING FEELING...?
IS THERE ANY OTHER MEDICATION YOU COULD PRESCRIBE?
NO, THERE ISN'T...
HUH ...?
?
I... I'M FINE...
SIR, YOU SEEM VERY TIRED. ARE YOU OKAY?


WHAT?!
WHOA... RIGHT NOW...
I'M ALL BETTER!
...HER USUAL CHEERY SELF IS BACK!
But I, on the other hand...
YUP!
RI-RIN...
ARE YOU OKAY NOW?!
...I FEEL AS IF I CAN SEE FLOWERS...
DAIKICHI, HURRY UP AND HELP OUT!
AH, OKAY...

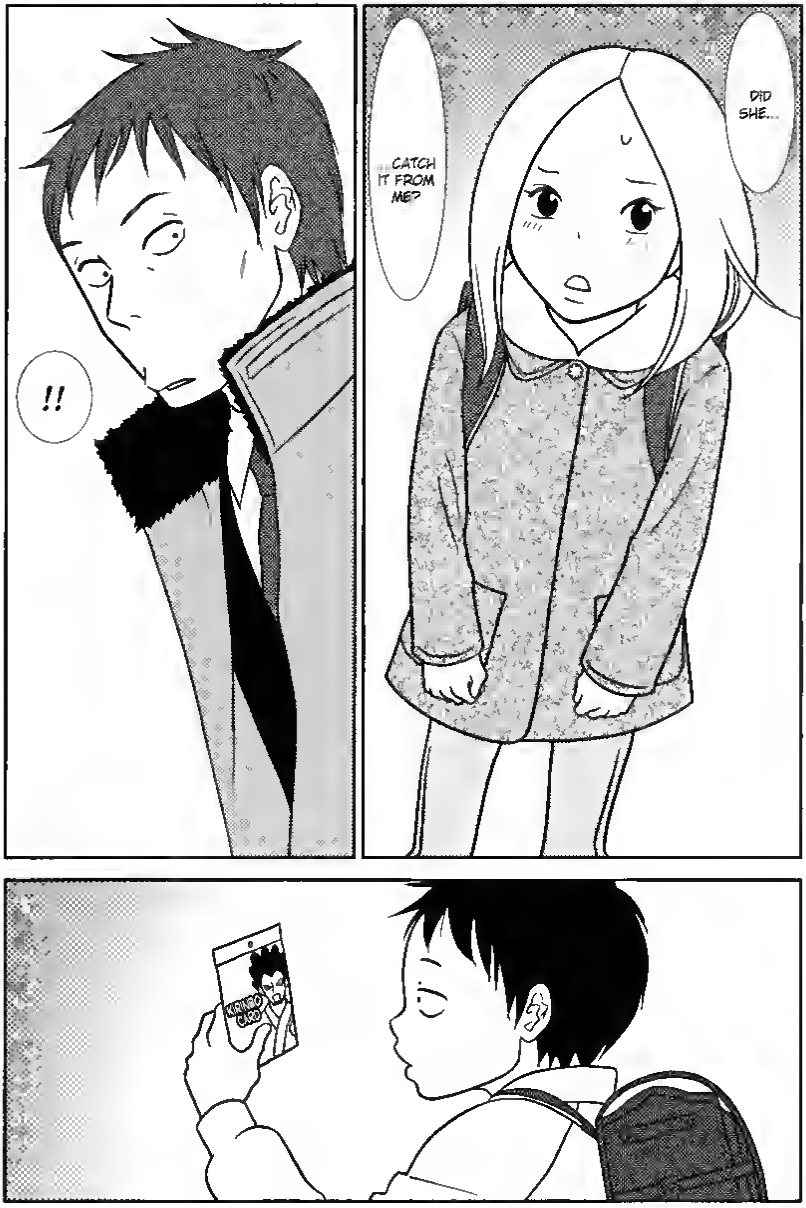
学童クラブ
AH, GOOD EVENING KAWA-CHI-SAN.
GOOD EVE-NING.
PLEASE, WAIT A MOMENT.
RIN-CHAN, YOUR RIDE IS HERE!
PLEASE THANK YOUR MOM FOR ME...
THE OTHER DAY?
I'll call her later myself too.
...FOR THE OTHER DAY.
FOR HELPING NURSE RIN
AH.
DAI-KICHI!
OH, KOUKI
CAN I GO HOME WITH YOU TODAY?
AGAIN?!
YOUR TEACHERS HAVE TOLD US BEFORE, RIGHT? ONLY YOUR MOM CAN COME AND PICK YOU UP!
UM..
HEY...

WHAT?!
MY MOM'S IN BED WITH A COLD
I CAN ACTUALLY GET HOME BY MYSELF...
...BUT THE TEACHER IS BEING ANNOYING ABOUT IT
A-A-ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
YOU'RE SURE?!
IT-IT'S NOT THE FLU, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST A COLD!
SO, YOUR MOM...
...TOOK THE DAY OFF WORK THEN?
YUP!
STUPID! THEY'RE NOT BEING MEAN!
ANYWAY, JUST HELP ME OUT OF HERE,
THOSE ARE JUST THE RULES!
IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
THE TEACHER'S JUST BEING MEAN
OKAY, DAIKICHI?

...IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER IF SHE RESTED.
IN ANY CASE...
YOU KNOW, WHEN I HAD A COLD, MOM WOULD ALWAYS TELL ME TO REST AND TAKE IT EASY.
BUT SHE SAID SHE WOULD COME AND PICK ME UP.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S UNFAIR?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "UNFAIR"...?
IF HER COLD WASN'T VERY SERIOUS, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE DAY OFF FROM WORK...
MEANING...
WHOA...
IT'S MORE LIKE A MASSACRE.
RATHER THAN WINTER BEING A BATTLE EVERY DAY,
IT'S GOTTA BE REALLY BAD...
...
...
...
...SHE PROBABLY CAUGHT RIN'S COLD...

YES!
UM...
BUT...
ALL-RIGHT!
KOUKI, LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER!
LET ME ASK MY BOSS..
AH... UM
AFTER THAT, I CAN PASS THE PHONE TO YOU IF YOU WANT?
...I'LL CALL KOUKI'S HOUSE AND LET THEM KNOW I'LL BE TAKING HIM HOME
BUT BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUM-STANCES...
SORRY,
NITANI-SAN WAS APOLOGETIC, AND APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY...
HEY, DON'T RUN!
thud thud thud
THE TEACHER WAS RELUCTANT, BUT IN THE END RELEASED KOUKI...
SUPER ISU
DOUBLE POINTS ON SUNDAYS

KOUKI, GO AHEAD AND CHOOSE SOME BREAD AND SOMETHING TO DRINK FOR BREAKFAST TOMORROW.
RO-GER!
WELL, THEN...
SPORTS DRINKS, WATER... AND SOMETHING TO EAT, HUH?
WHEN SOMEONE HAS A COLD, WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST THING TO BRING FOR THEM?
...EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SO CONCERNED ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S FAMILIES.
YUP.
AH, RIN, ARE YOU GOING TO BUY SOMETHING FOR BREAKFAST TOO?
AH.
YOU CAN GET RICE BALLS INSTEAD OF BREAD.


!!
...CATCH IT FROM ME?
DID SHE...

RIN...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT.
PEOPLE SHOULD BE CAREFUL AND TRY NOT TO SPREAD IT...
...BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER YOU DID OR NOT.
WHEN YOU SPREAD IT, YOU SPREAD IT. WHEN YOU CATCH IT, YOU CATCH IT.
THERE ARE COLD GERMS EVERYWHERE.

SURE ...
...
From the building owner?
I...
DAI-KICHI
IS IT OKAY IF I PICK OUT SOME THINGS TO GIVE TO KOUKI'S MOM?
アミノ サプライズ
OH—
THESE

WHEN YOU LIVE TOGETHER, YOU CHOOSE THE SAME THINGS...
AH, WELL, THEY'RE SMALL THOUGH...
MM... PUT THEM IN THE BASKET...
!!
KOUKI, DID YOU PICK OUT BREAK-FAST YET?
アミノ
サプライズ
AH... I'M PICKING IT OUT RIGHT NOW...
YOU SURE DON'T LOOK LIKE IT!
AND WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING INSIDE OF?!
I'M TRYING TO SEE IF IT'S A WINNER!
YOU CAN'T SEE THAT!

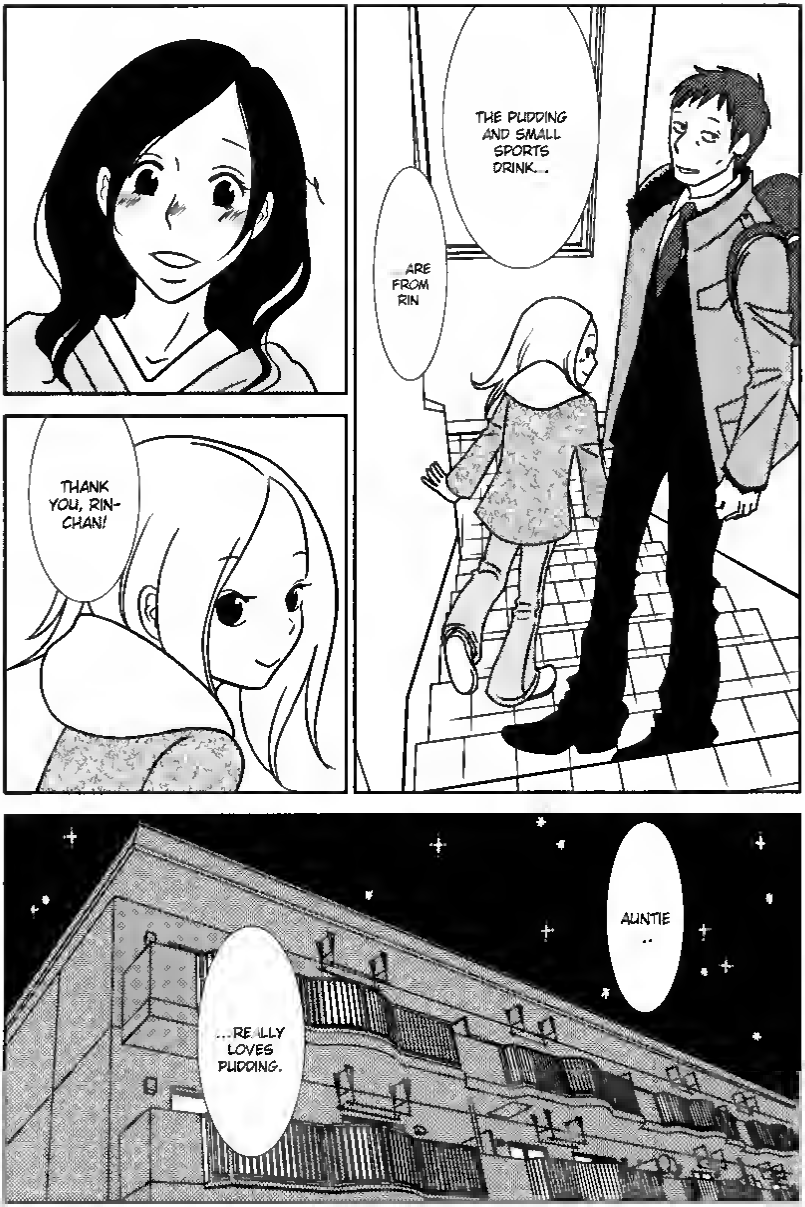
KOUKI, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?
LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING!
AND IT WOULD'VE BEEN FINE IF YOU HAD JUST SAID FOO?
MOM, YOU GOT SOME GRUB FROM DAIKICHI!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
LET'S GO HOME, RIN...
YUP
GIVE THIS FOOD TO YOUR MOM...
YUP
WELL THEN KOUKI WE'LL BE HEADING HOME NOW. WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE ANY NOISE
DAI-KICHI-SAN...

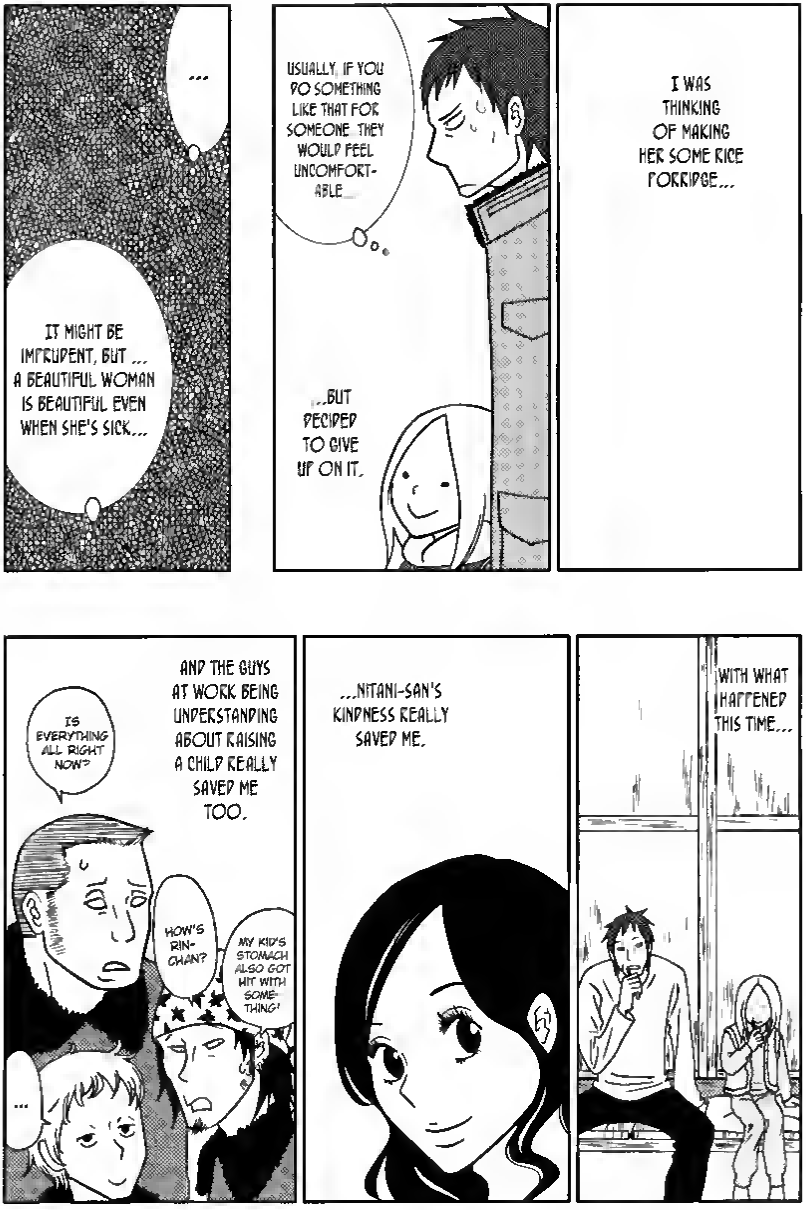
NAW... YOU LOOKED AFTER RIN, AFTER ALL...
I'M ... I'M SORRY TO ALWAYS TROUBLE YOU!
RIN OR RATHER ME?
I'M SORRY YOU'RE ALWAYS BEING TOO KIND
UM HERE ARE SOME DRINKS AND STUFF
THEY'RE KINDA RANDOM THOUGH
HUH ...?
OH, SHE'S COMPLETELY RECOVERED SHE STARTED GOING BACK TO SCHOOL TODAY
HOW'S RIN-CHAN?
IS THAT RIGHT? THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR...
IN ANY CASE...
WHAT PART OF IT WAS...?
NO... IT'S THE NATURAL THING TO DO
I'M SORRY, YOU'RE ALWAYS BEING TOO KIND...

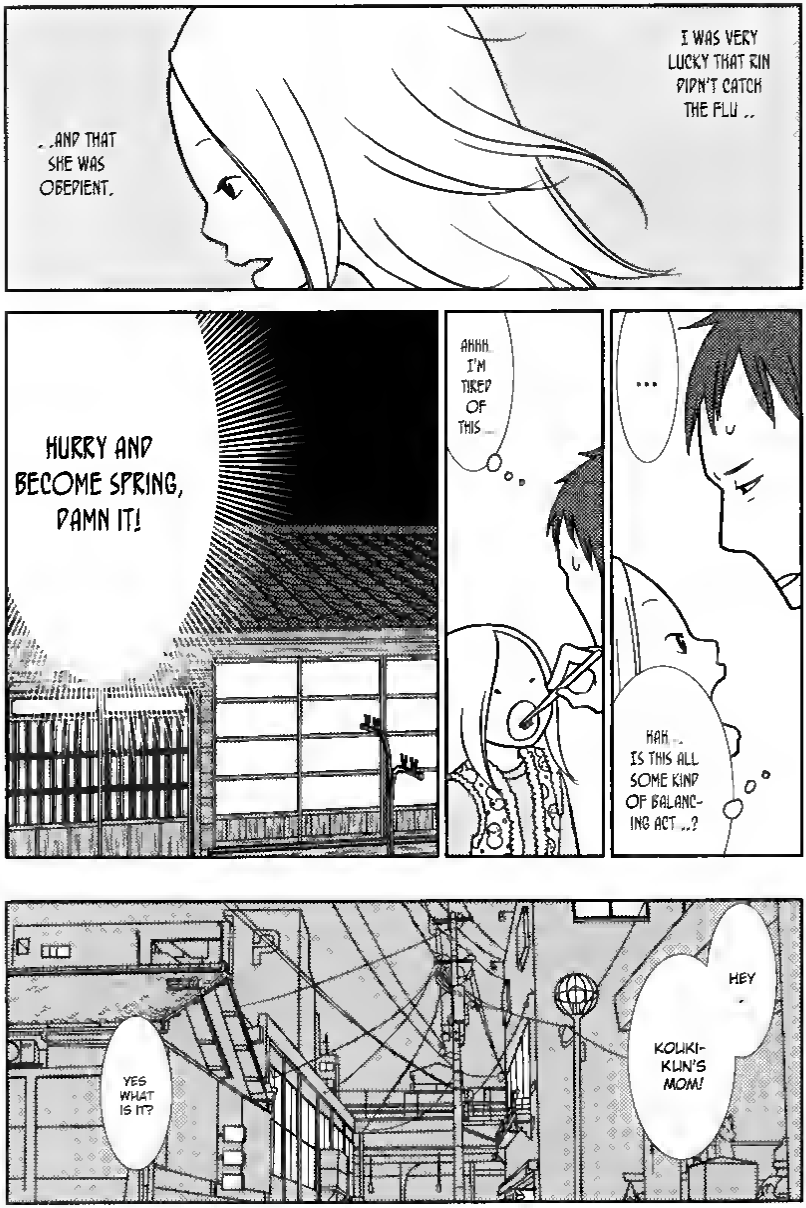
BECAUSE YOU LOOKED AFTER RIN FOR ME...
...YOU CAUGHT IT...
I'M SORRY
DAI-KICHI-SAN
I MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE EVERY DAY...
AND I RIDE A TRAIN FULL OF PEOPLE TO WORK, JUST LIKE YOU DO

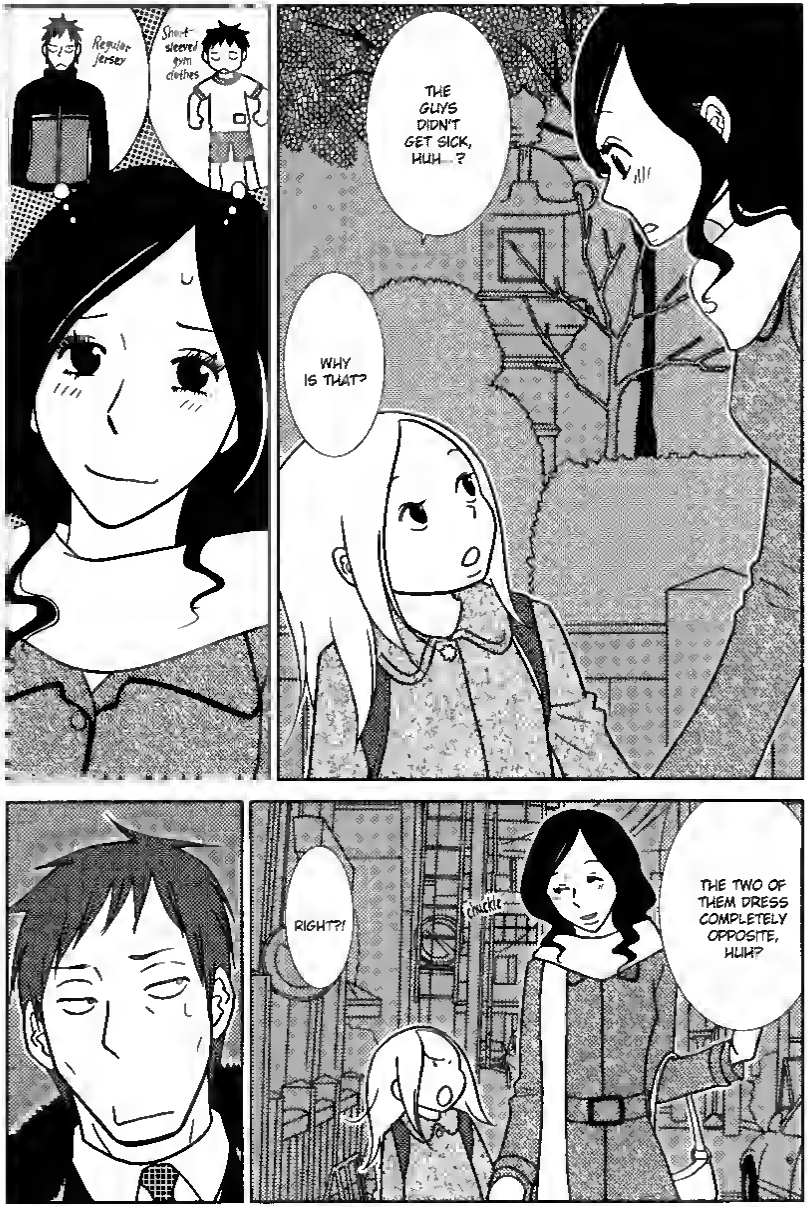
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW WHO I CAUGHT IT FROM, RIGHT?
OKAY—
IT'S JUST A COLD.
THAT'S WHY, YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST PICKING HIM UP...
THEN, AT THE VERY LEAST,
LET ME HELP OUT WITH KOUKI
...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OH!
RIGHT

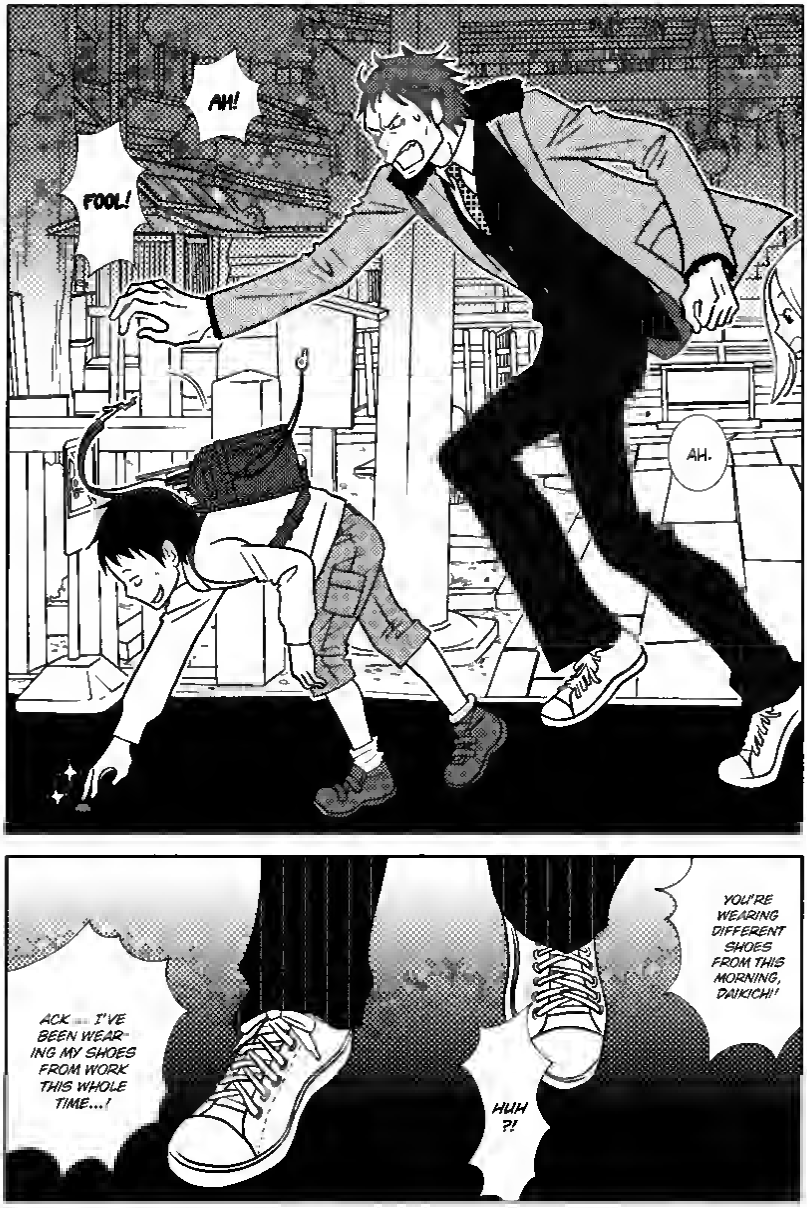

THANK YOU, RIN-CHAN!
THE PUDDING AND SMALL SPORTS DRINK...
ARE FROM RIN
AUNTIE ..
...REALLY LOVES PUDDING.


...
IT MIGHT BE IMPRUDENT, BUT ... A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IS BEAUTIFUL EVEN WHEN SHE'S SICK...
USUALLY, IF YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT FOR SOMEONE, THEY WOULD FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE...
...BUT DECIDED TO GIVE UP ON IT.
I WAS THINKING OF MAKING HER SOME RICE PORRIDGE...
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT NOW?
AND THE GUYS AT WORK BEING UNDERSTANDING ABOUT RAISING A CHILD REALLY SAVED ME TOO.
HOW'S RIN-CHAN?
MY KID'S STOMACH ALSO GOT HIT WITH SOMETHING!
...
...NITANI-SAN'S KINDNESS REALLY SAVED ME.
WITH WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME...


I WAS VERY LUCKY THAT RIN DIDN'T CATCH THE FLU ..
..AND THAT SHE WAS OBEDIENT.
HURRY AND BECOME SPRING, DAMN IT!
AHHH. I'M TIRED OF THIS ...
...
HAH... IS THIS ALL SOME KIND OF BALANCING ACT ..?
HEY -
KOUKI-KUN'S MOM!
YES WHAT IS IT?


Regular jersey
Short-sleeved gym clothes
THE GUYS DIDN'T GET SICK, HUH...?
WHY IS THAT?
THE TWO OF THEM DRESS COMPLETELY OPPOSITE, HUH?
Crackle
RIGHT?!

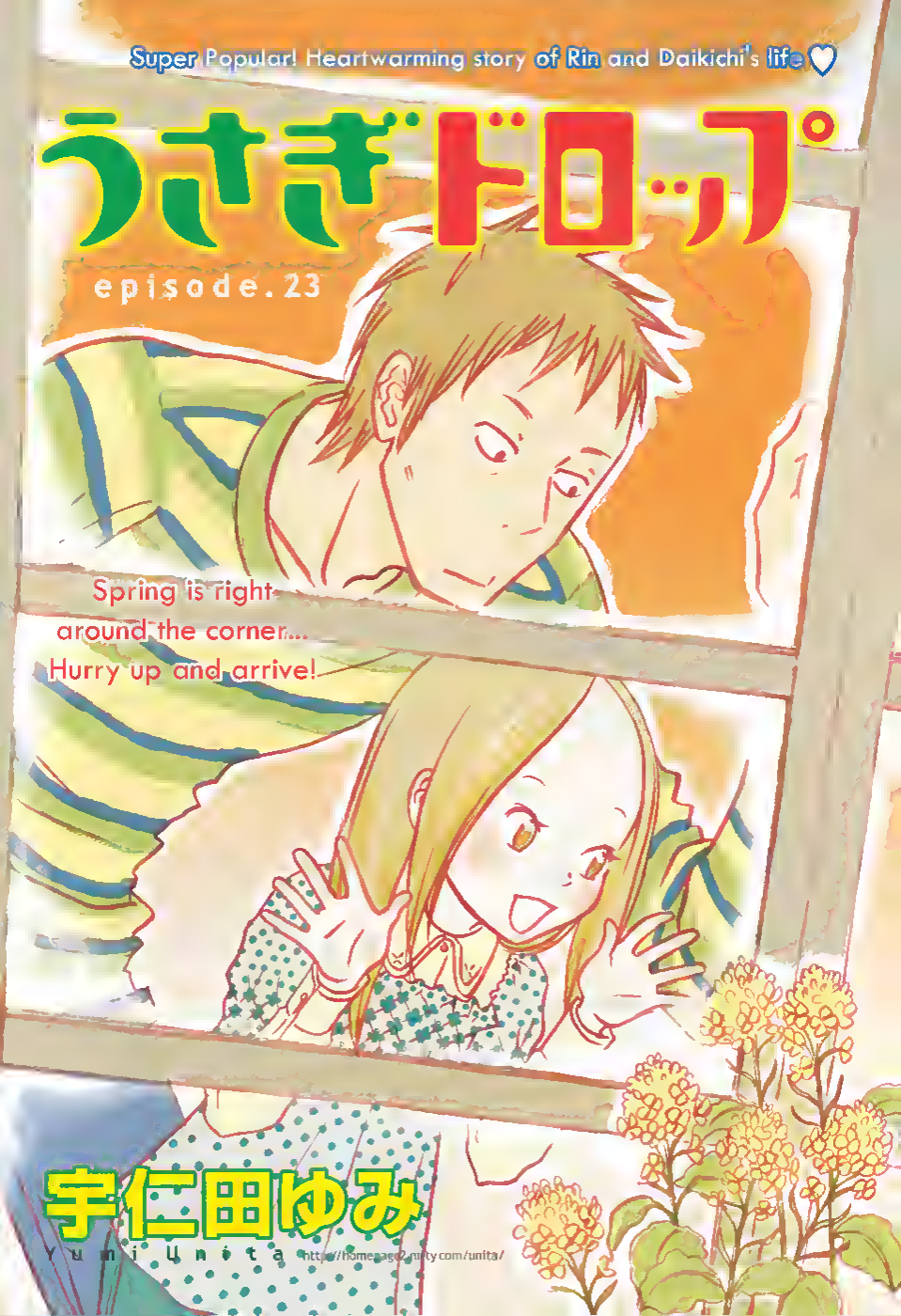
I PREFER THIS RATHER THAN WHAT THAT KID'S WEARING.
Kite-ni I'm blaming myself.
YOU KNOW, DAIKICHI-SAN WORKS HARD NOT TO GET SICK FOR RIN-CHAN'S SAKE.
REALLY?
IT'S BECAUSE FOOLS DON'T CATCH COLDS, HUH...?
HAHA...


AH!
FOOL!
AH.
YOU'RE WEARING DIFFERENT SHOES FROM THIS MORNING, DAIKICHI!
HUH?!
ACK ... I'VE BEEN WEARING MY SHOES FROM WORK THIS WHOLE TIME...!

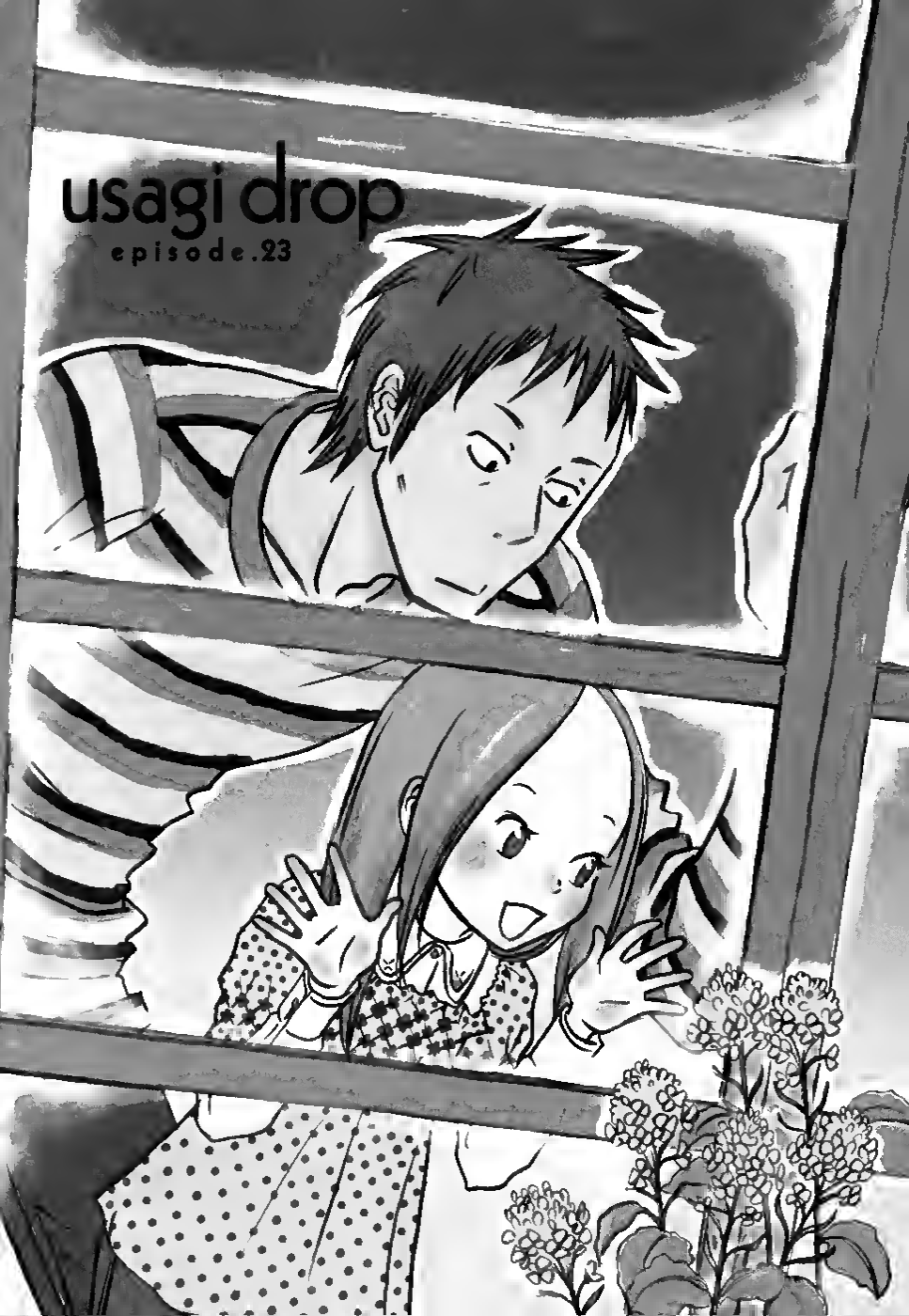
Super Popular! Heartwarming story of Rin and Daikichi's life

うさぎドロップ

episode.23



宇仁田ゆみ
Yumi Unita
http://homepage2.nifty.com/unita/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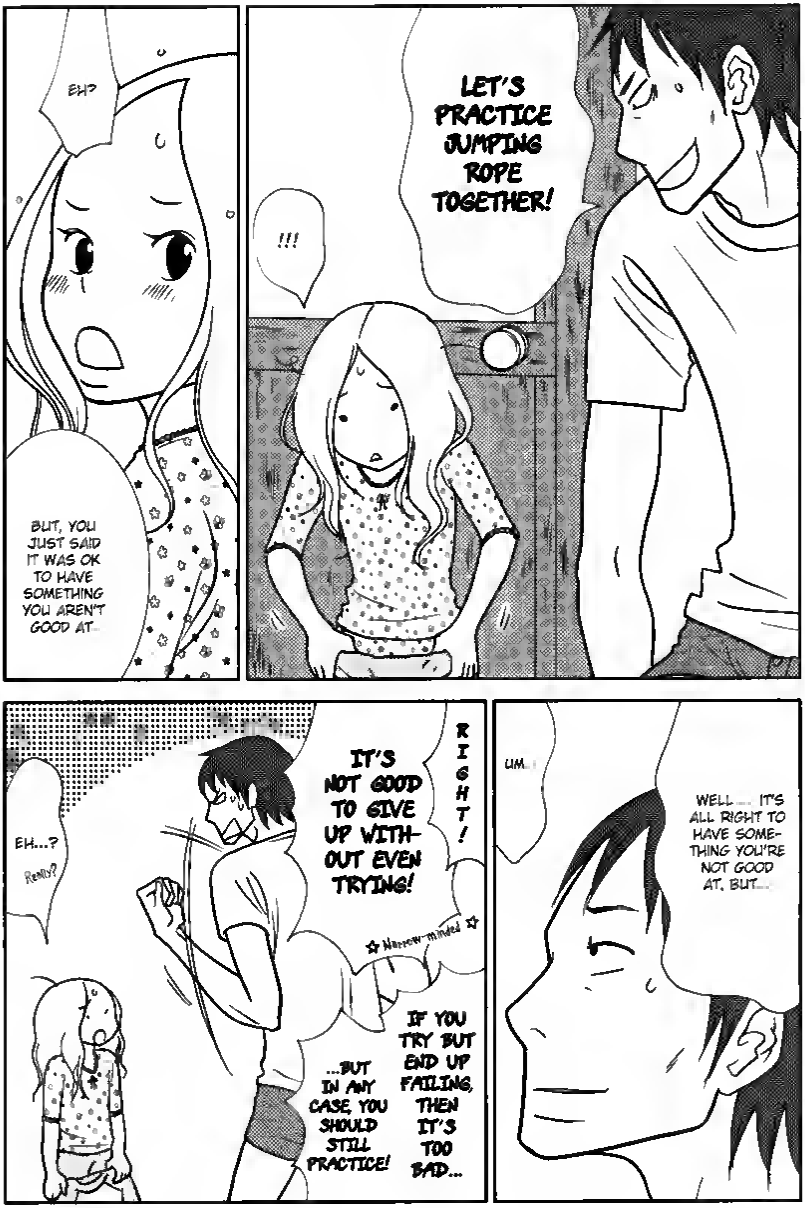
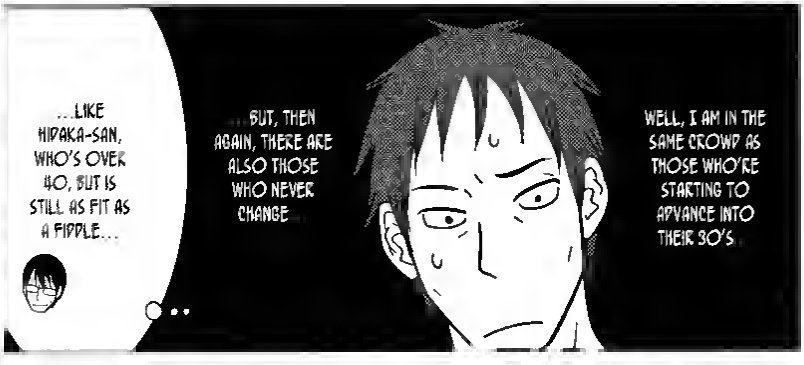
episode.23

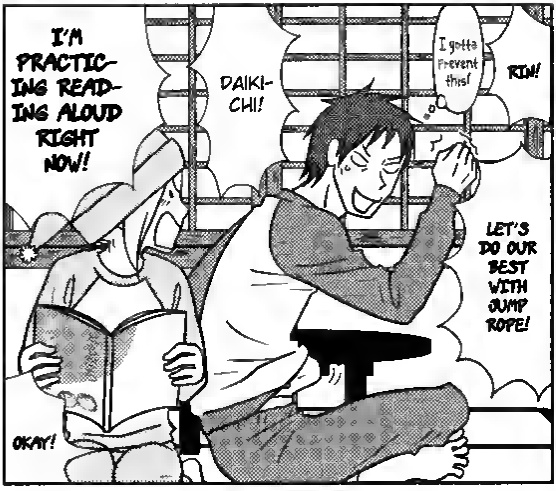
usagi drop

I'M HORRIBLE AT JUMP ROPE
NO, IT WON'T!
SOUNDS LIKE IT'LL BE FUN.
HMM? A JUMP ROPE CONTEST?
!!!
WELL, EVERY-ONE HAS SOMETHING THEY'RE NOT GOOD AT.
HEH
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

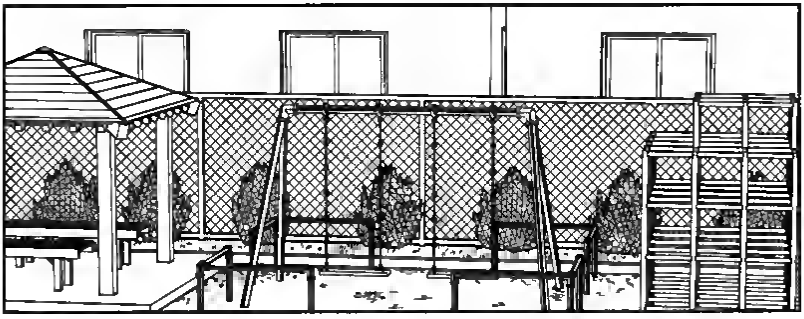

EH?
BUT, YOU JUST SAID IT WAS OK TO HAVE SOMETHING YOU AREN'T GOOD AT...
!!!
LET'S PRACTICE JUMPING ROPE TOGETHER!
UM...
WELL... IT'S ALL RIGHT TO HAVE SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT, BUT...
EH...?
Really?
IT'S NOT GOOD TO GIVE UP WITHOUT EVEN TRYING!
RIGHT!
☆ Narrow-minded ☆
...BUT IN ANY CASE, YOU SHOULD STILL PRACTICE!
IF YOU TRY BUT END UP FAILING, THEN IT'S TOO BAD...

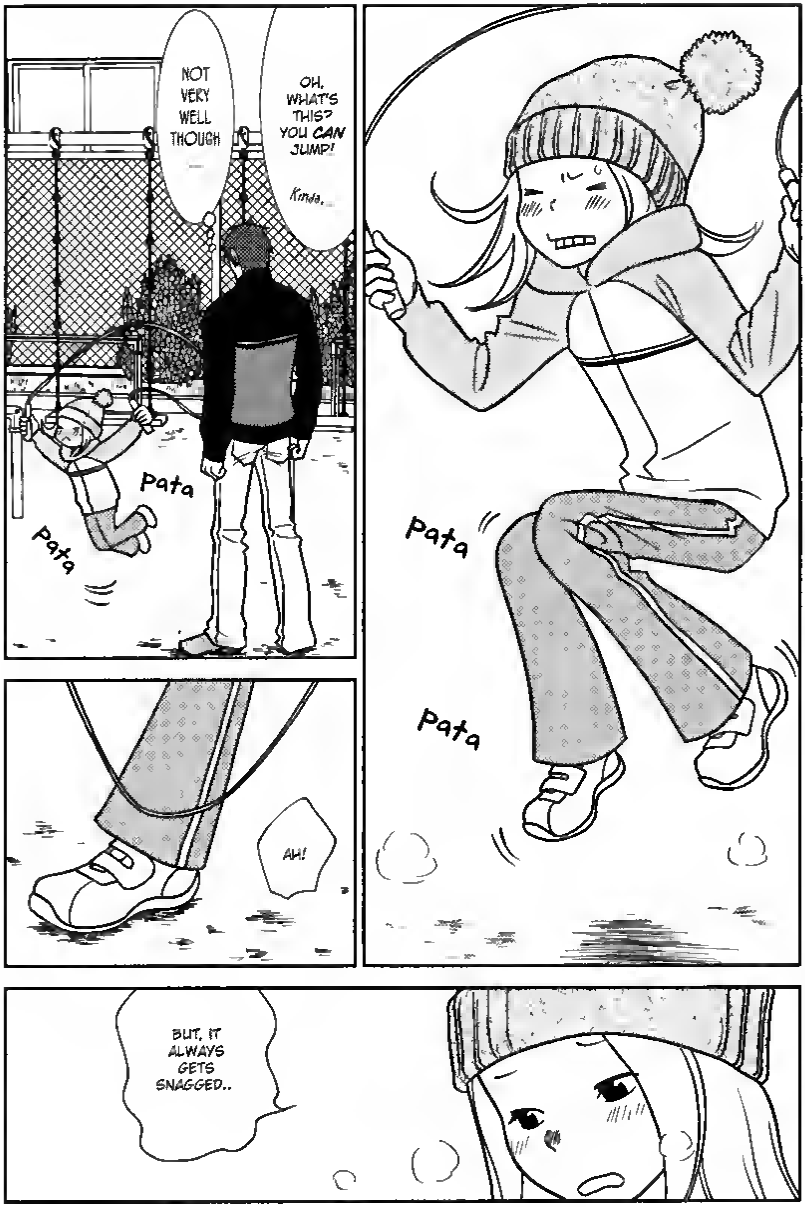
IT'S BEGUN FOR ME TOO, HUH?!
rustle rustle
IT FEELS A BIT FLABBY...
...IS IT BECAUSE I'M SITTING?
reading reading reading reading reading reading
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
UWAH!
UWAH!
Changes in a man (Example)
I'VE HEARD OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE... CHANGING FROM AN UPSIDE DOWN TRIANGULAR SHAPE... TO A RECTANGULAR SHAPE... AND THEN TO SOMETHING LIKE A PAIR OF TRAPEZOIDS.
I'M LISTENING!
DAIKICHI, ARE YOU LISTENING?
HMM... JUST AS I THOUGHT!
IT IS A BIT DIFFERENT...


...LIKE HIRAKA-SAN, WHO'S OVER 40, BUT IS STILL AS FIT AS A FIDDLE...
...BUT, THEN AGAIN, THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO NEVER CHANGE...
WELL, I AM IN THE SAME CROWD AS THOSE WHO'RE STARTING TO APPROACH INTO THEIR 30'S...


I'M PRACTICING READING ALOUD RIGHT NOW!
DAIKICHI!
I gotta prevent this!
RIN!
LET'S DO OUR BEST WITH JUMP ROPE!
OKAY!

BUT, THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE...
...NOT EVEN WHEN I ATE TOO MUCH ON NEW YEAR'S




NOT VERY WELL THOUGH...
OH, WHAT'S THIS? YOU CAN JUMP! Kinda...
Pata
Pata
Pata
Pata
AH!
BUT, IT ALWAYS GETS SNAGGED..

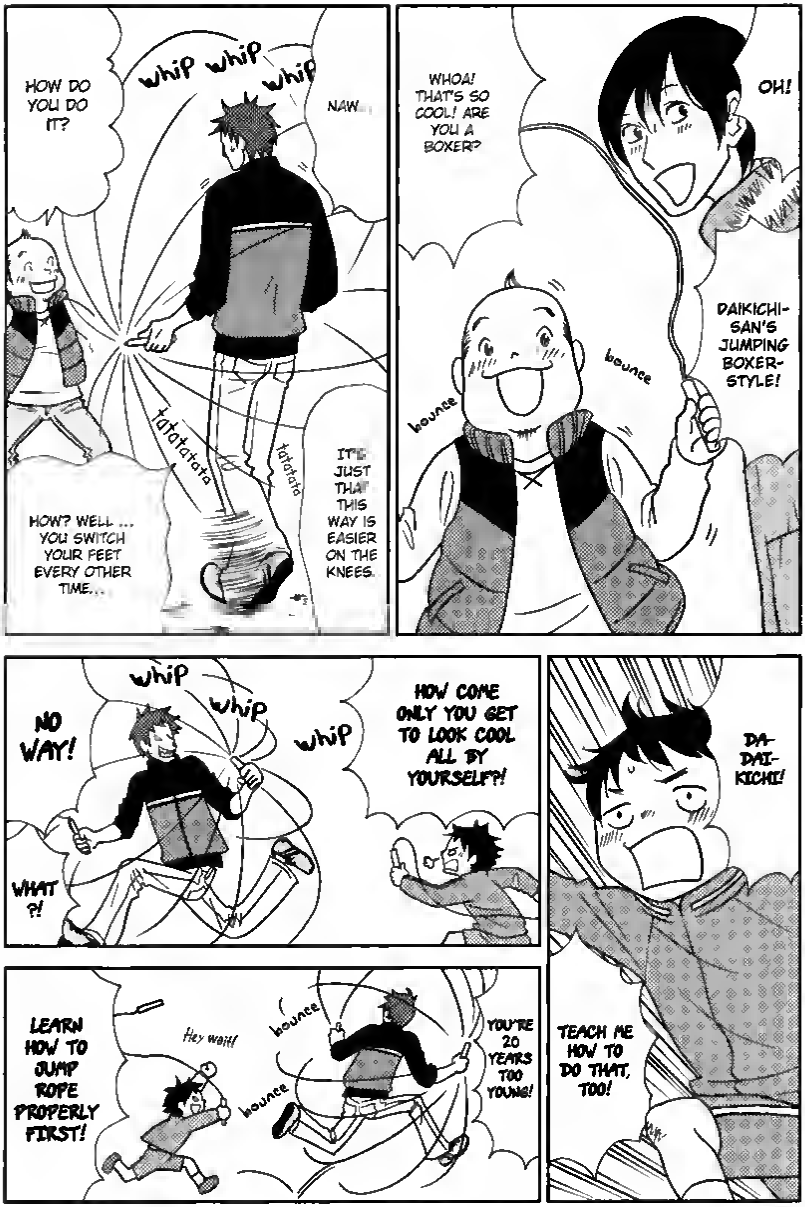
AH, KOUKI-KUN!
HEY!
RIN!
AH!
That silhouette and exuberance
Hey! Hey! Over here!
AH, IT'S DAIKICHI-SAN
Hello.
Hello.
AH, WE'RE ALL HERE FOR THE SAME THING, HUH?
YEAH
giggle
FOR THE JUMP ROPE CONTEST

AH...
THAT'S PART OF IT TOO!
Gained 3kg
Gained 1kg
WHEN YOU GET PAST THE 30 MARK, IT GETS ROUGH
Gained 3kg
...I THOUGHT I SHOULD JUMP ROPE, TOO...
AND... I NEED TO WORK OFF THE WEIGHT I GAINED DURING NEW YEAR'S, SO...
OH!
IT'S 'CAUSE HE'S ALWAYS IMITATING HIS OLDER BROTHER.
OHH...
NOBU-KUN'S REALLY GOOD!
WHIP
WHIP
PATA
PATA

HM?
KOU-KI...?
YES... HE CAN'T SEEM TO QUITE GET IT...
SMACK
AH!
SAYAKA-CHAN'S REALLY GOOD, TOO!!!
SAYAKA'S WORKED HARD IMITATING NOBU-KUN...
Even though she's pigeon-toed!
bounce
bounce
bounce
SHE'S REALLY MOTIVATED TO WIN...
HMM...
THAT'S A BIT UNEXPECTED...
KOUKI
YOU'RE JUMPING TOO EARLY.
REALLY?

AND WHEN IT GETS HERE, THAT'S WHEN YOU JUMP.
OKAY!
WHEN THE ROPE SWINGS, IT GOES LIKE THIS.
...?
YOU JUMP AT THIS PART OF THE ROPE, RIGHT?
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH LATER YOUR FEET COME WHILE DOING IT
SO, SWING IT SLOWLY AT FIRST AND SEE!
I SEE ...
AH...
SO, IF YOU START YOUR HANDS AND FEET AT THE SAME TIME, IT WON'T WORK, RIGHT?
YOUR FEET COME AFTER
RIN IS GETTING ANXIOUS AFTER SEEING SAYAKA-CHAN DO SO WELL.
OK, OK
What are you laughing about?!
Hehe..
ME... ME TOO...
TEACH ME, TOO!
DAIKI-CHI!

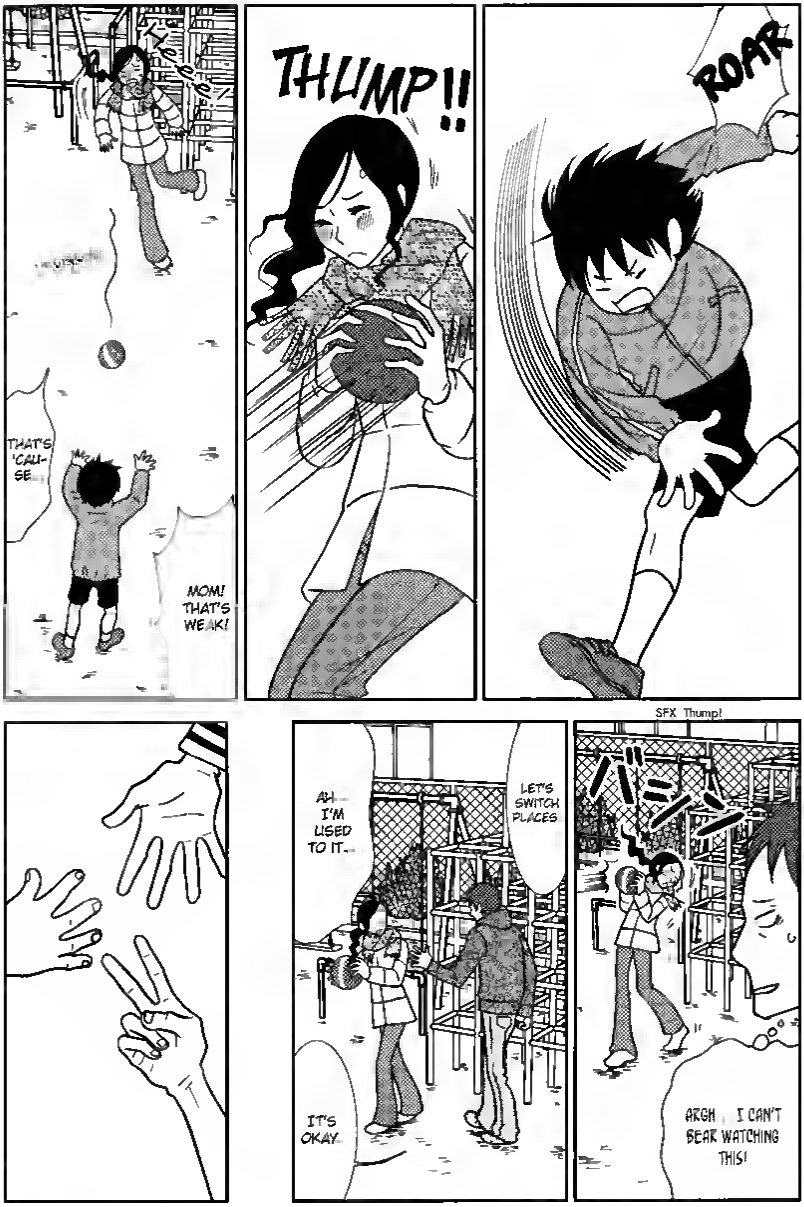
...YOU SWING IT TOO WIDE...
KEEP THIS PART CLOSE...
WELL, IN YOUR CASE, RIN...
whip
whip
whip
bounce
bounce


HOW DO YOU DO IT?
whip whip whip
NAW...
tatatatata
tatatata
IT'S JUST THAT THIS WAY IS EASIER ON THE KNEES.
HOW? WELL ... YOU SWITCH YOUR FEET EVERY OTHER TIME...
WHOA! THAT'S SO COOL! ARE YOU A BOXER?
OH!
bounce
bounce
DAIKICHI-SAN'S JUMPING BOXER-STYLE!
NO WAY!
whip
whip
whip
WHAT?!
HOW COME ONLY YOU GET TO LOOK COOL ALL BY YOURSELF?!
DA-DAI-KICHI!
TEACH ME HOW TO DO THAT, TOO!
LEARN HOW TO JUMP ROPE PROPERLY FIRST!
Hey wait!
bounce
bounce
YOU'RE 20 YEARS TOO YOUNG!

AH HA HA
DAIKICHI-SAN IS ALWAYS PLAYING WITH A CHILDISH INNOCENCE...
SO, KOUKI'S GOTTEN REALLY ATTACHED TO HIM.
IT'S RAIN-ING...
AH!
LET'S TAKE A BREAK!
AND LIKE THAT, WHENEVER RIN AND THE OTHERS HAD A DAY OFF, THEY WOULD COME TO THE PARK AND COMPETE WITH ONE ANOTHER.
AND HE DOESN'T FORCE HIMSELF TO SEE THINGS THROUGH A CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW, EITHER
IS... IS THAT RIGHT...
HEHEHE...
whirl
whirl
You're doing something different again!
What is that technique?!
bounce

whip
whip
YUP, YUP!
WE'RE PROTECTING OURSELVES BY JUMP ROPING, SO WE'RE FINE!
thump
thump
YOU'RE NOT PROTECTED AT ALL, SO HURRY UP AND GET INSIDE!
OKAAAY!
HUH?!

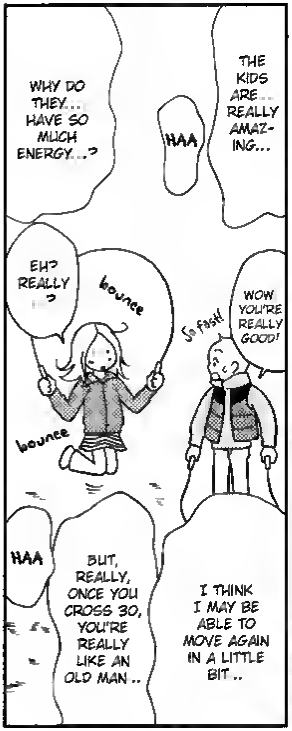
EVERYONE'S STILL ON THEIR FIRST CONTACT BOOK?!
I'M ALREADY ON MY SECOND ONE, SO I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE TEACHER
IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I ALMOST IMMEDIATELY GO AND ASK NABE-CHAN
I USE IT FROM TIME TO TIME
IT... IT ISN'T LIKE THAT...
IN MY CASE, IT ISN'T ME WRITING IN IT... IT'S THE TEACHER...
WELL, IT'S BECAUSE THAT TEACHER'S A BIT STUBBORN
OH...
KOU-KI...
HE'S STILL ONLY A FIRST GRADER, AFTER ALL
IS THAT MUCH OF A...?
OH... UM... I WAS ALREADY KIND OF EXPECTING IT, SO IT'S FINE
HEY, MOM!
GO FURTHER!

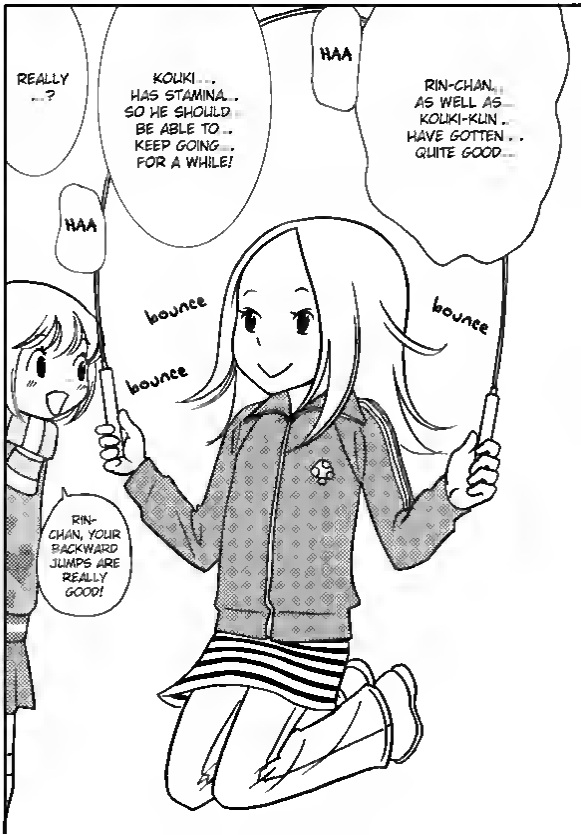

THAT'S 'CAUSE...
MOM! THAT'S WEAK!
THUMP!!
ROAR
SFX Thump!
AH... I'M USED TO IT...
LET'S SWITCH PLACES
IT'S OKAY...
ARGH... I CAN'T BEAR WATCHING THIS!

IS THIS TEAM GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
WHAT?! I'M ON THE KIDS' TEAM?!
NABE-CHIN, RUN FASTER!
DASH
DASH
DASH
DON'T ASK ME TO DO THE IMPOS-SIBLE!
WAY TO GO!
KOUKI-KUN, YOU'RE GOOD!
AHH!
plop
plop
DAIKI-CHI!
Watermelon thief...
DRIBBLE THE BALL!

MAN, A DODGEBALL'S HARD TO HANDLE!
ISN'T IT?
thap
Argh—
Argh—

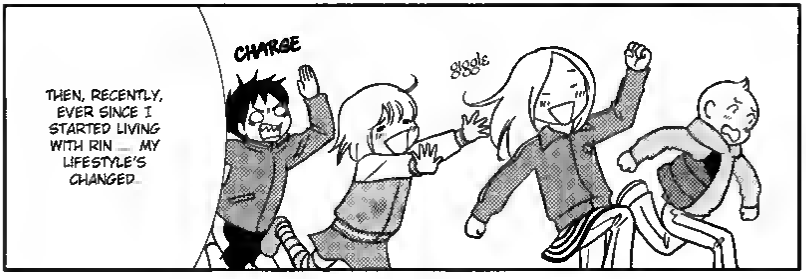
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
.....
WHEEZE


WHY DO THEY... HAVE SO MUCH ENERGY...?
HAA
THE KIDS ARE... REALLY AMAZ-ING...
EH? REALLY ...?
bounce
bounce
So Fast!
WOW YOU'RE REALLY GOOD!
HAA
BUT, REALLY, ONCE YOU CROSS 30, YOU'RE REALLY LIKE AN OLD MAN..
I THINK I MAY BE ABLE TO MOVE AGAIN IN A LITTLE BIT..

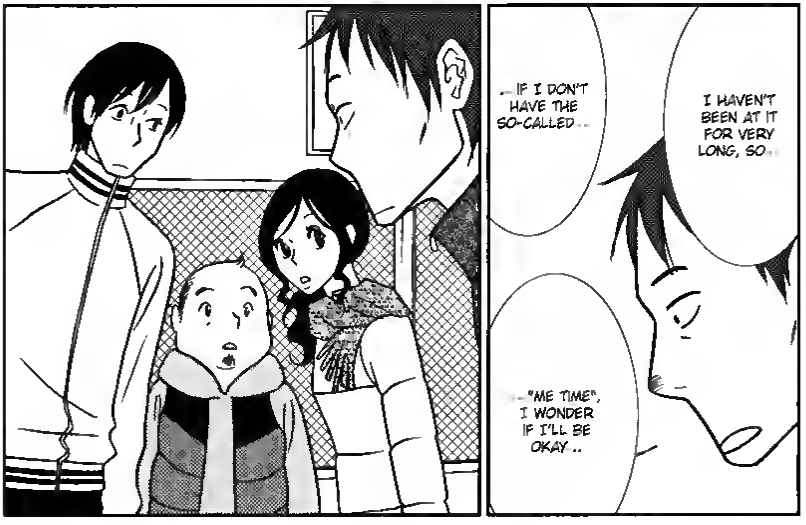

REALLY ...?
KOUKI... HAS STAMINA... SO HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO.. KEEP GOING... FOR A WHILE!
HAA
RIN-CHAN... AS WELL AS KOUKI-KUN.. HAVE GOTTEN.. QUITE GOOD...
HAA
bounce
bounce
bounce
RIN-CHAN, YOUR BACKWARD JUMPS ARE REALLY GOOD!

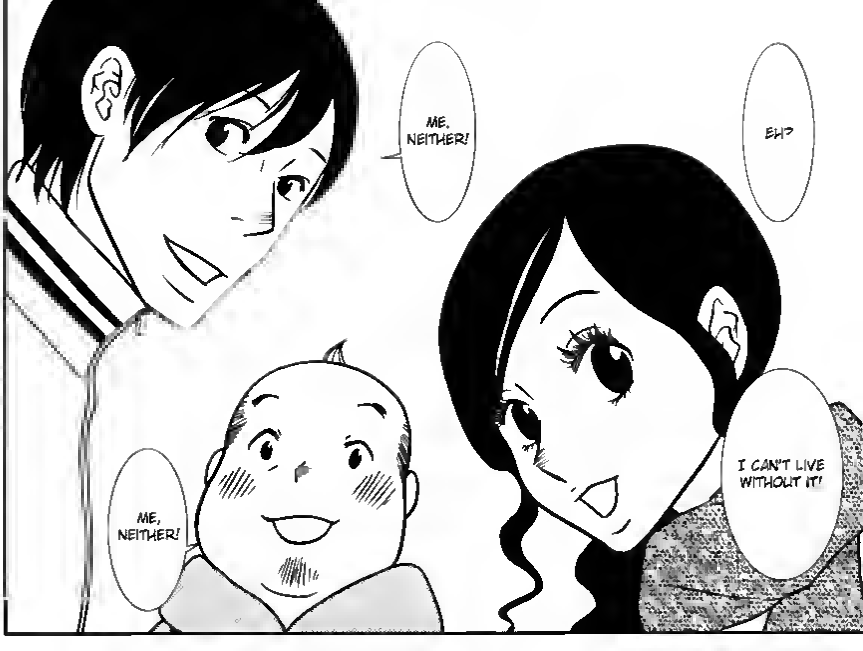
MICCHAN, I THINK BOTH YOU AND NABE-CHIN KNOW THIS ALREADY, BUT...
ADULTS?
YEAH...
WELL...
ADULTS ARE AMAZING, TOO.

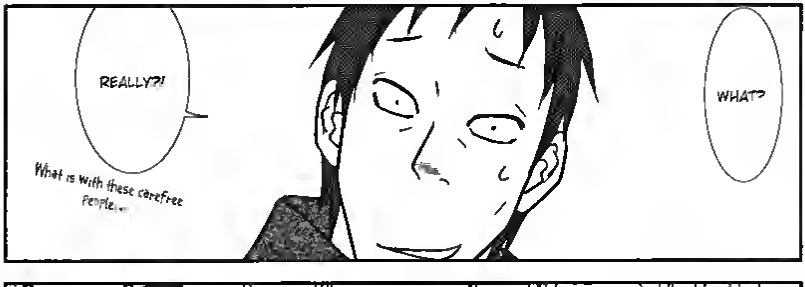
..UP UNTIL THAT TIME, MY TIME HAD JUST BEEN MY OWN.....
WE STARTED LIVING TOGETHER JUST A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, BUT..
..I'M NOT RIN'S REAL FATHER.
..MY TIME, FOR THE MOST PART, WAS SPENT FOR MYSELF ..
EVEN WHEN I HAD A GIRL-FRIEND ..
THE GAME "TAG"
!!
TEE?!
DAIKICHI, LET'S PLAY T!
YOU CAN AFFORD TO SAY "TAG"! AND US OLD GUYS ARE TIRED ALREADY, SO FORGET IT!

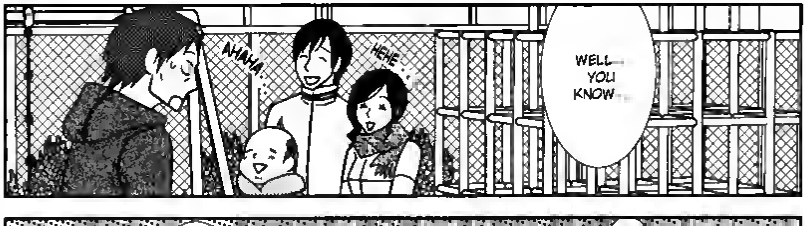

THEN, RECENTLY, EVER SINCE I STARTED LIVING WITH RIN ... MY LIFESTYLE'S CHANGED..
CHARGE
giggle

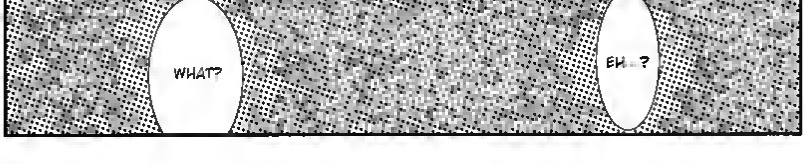
THE SCALE OF YOUR DETERMINATION AND PERSEVERANCE, IF MEASURED IN TERMS OF TIME, ISN'T IN NUMBER OF DAYS, IT'S IN NUMBER OF YEARS...
I THINK THAT'S JUST AMAZING!
BUT THE THREE OF YOU... YOU'VE BEEN AT IT SINCE YOUR 20'S...


...IF I DON'T HAVE THE SO-CALLED...
I HAVEN'T BEEN AT IT FOR VERY LONG, SO...
..."ME TIME", I WONDER IF I'LL BE OKAY ..


ME, NEITHER!
EH?
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT!
ME, NEITHER!

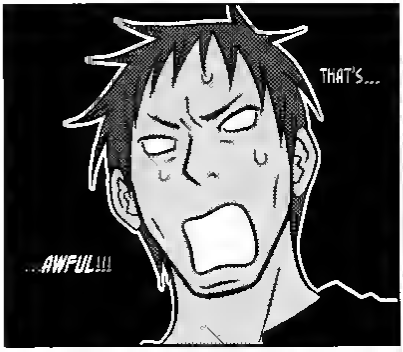

REALLY?!
What is with these carefree people...
WHAT?

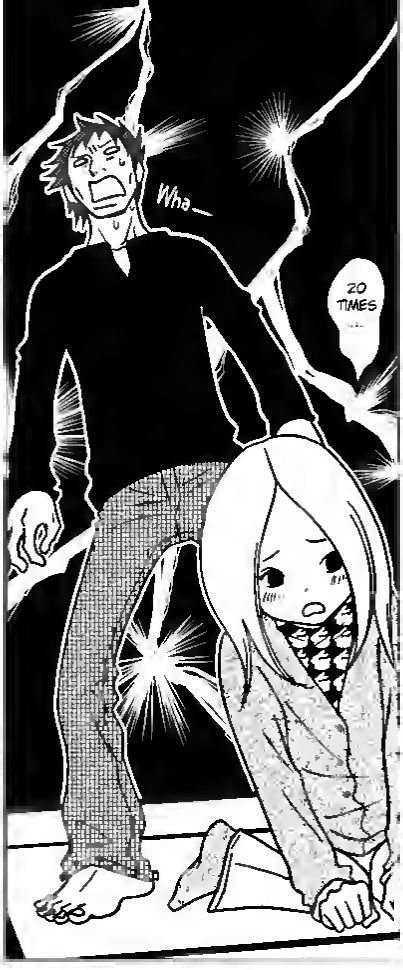

AHAHA
HEHE
WELL... YOU KNOW...


WHAT?
EH...?

HM?
RIN, WASN'T THE JUMP ROPE CONTEST TODAY?
UM...
February 8th!..
YEAH...
RIN...?
...!

!!!
I MESSED UP...
...
HOW... HOW MANY TIMES?

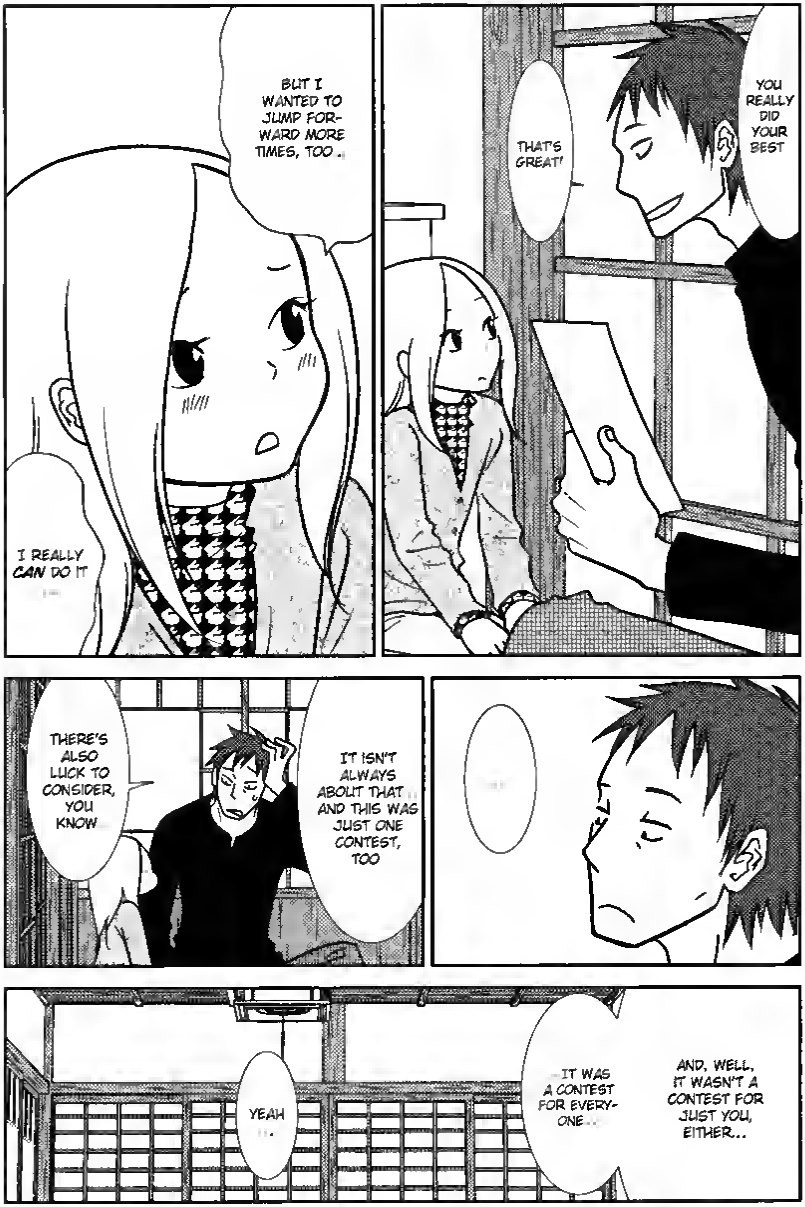

THAT'S...
...AWFUL!!!


Wha...
20 TIMES ...

YOU PRACTICED SO MUCH TOO!
You were easily able to jump more than 100 times!
BUT, WELL... WHEN THE ROPE GETS CAUGHT, IT GETS CAUGHT HUH...?

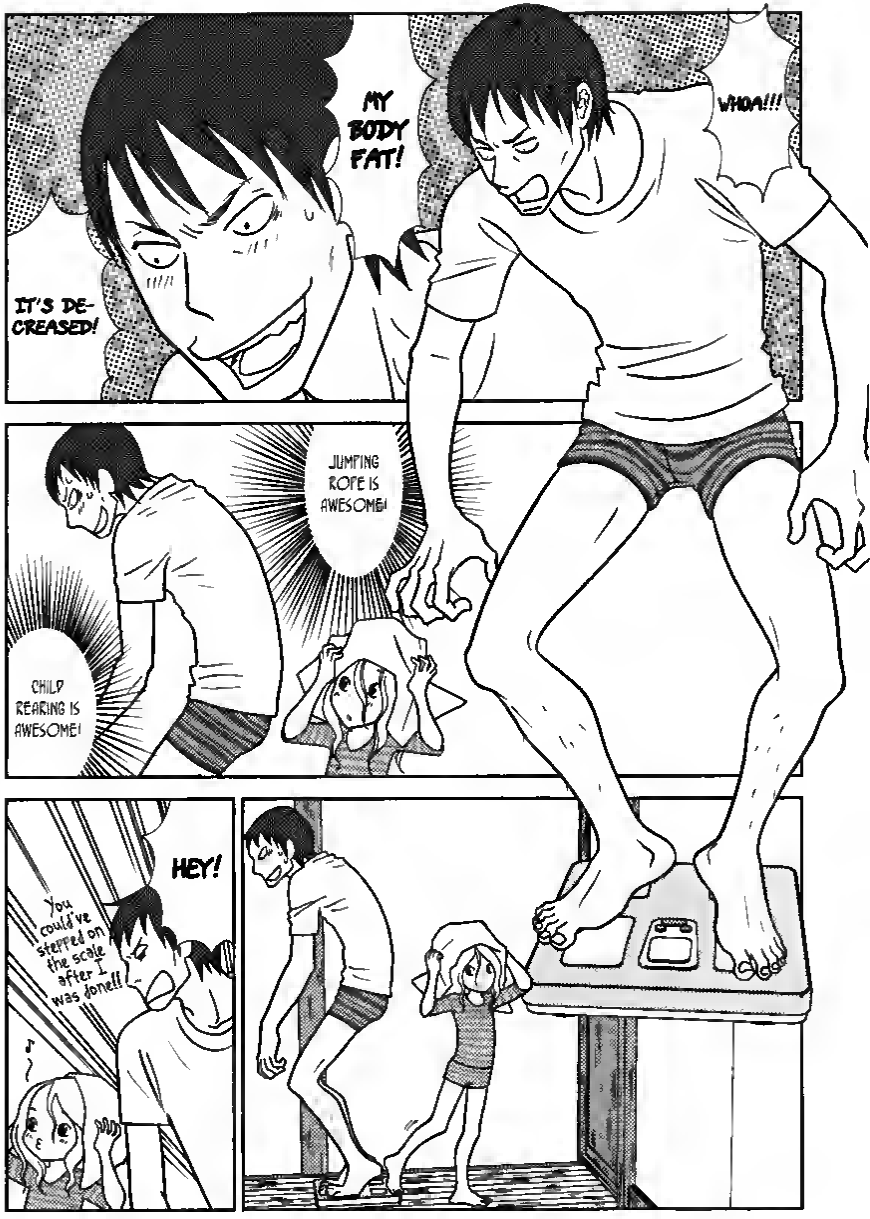
HOW DID THAT GO?
WHAT ABOUT JUMPING BACKWARDS?
badump
badump
HH...

203 TIMES
!!!
Heh...
Certificate
1st place
Kaga Rin
あなたは校内なわとび
大会において優秀な
成績をおさめました
ので表彰します
THAT WAS FIRST PLACE — RIGHT?
YUP!
WHAT?!
YOU JUMPED THAT MANY TIMES BACK-WARDS?!
Here's my certificate.
WHEN WE GOT TO TALKING ABOUT BACK-WARDS JUMP-ING SHE STARTED GET-TING HAUGHTY!!


BUT I WANTED TO JUMP FORWARD MORE TIMES, TOO...
I REALLY CAN DO IT
THAT'S GREAT!
YOU REALLY DID YOUR BEST
THERE'S ALSO LUCK TO CONSIDER, YOU KNOW...
IT ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT THAT... AND THIS WAS JUST ONE CONTEST, TOO
...
YEAH...
...IT WAS A CONTEST FOR EVERYONE...
AND, WELL, IT WASN'T A CONTEST FOR JUST YOU, EITHER...

AND I KNOW THAT. IN REALITY YOU'RE ABLE TO JUMP LOTS OF TIME!
SO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OKAY!

WELL ... THERE'S ALSO THE CHANCE YOU'LL MESS UP AGAIN NEXT YEAR, TOO...
OKAY!
IF YOU KEEP PRACTICING A LOT, THEN NEXT YEAR YOU'LL PROBABLY BE MUCH BETTER!
YEAH
...NOBU-KUN CAME IN 3RD IN FORWARD JUMPING.
SO THEY BOTH GOT PRIZES, HUH?
HMM...
SAYAKA-CHAN WAS 4TH
YEAH
AND ALSO...
OH! AND SAYAKA-CHAN'S ATTENDANCE NUMBER HAPPENS TO BE 4, TOO!
YEAH
OH, REALLY? ?!
YOSHIE-CHAN WAS 5TH


MY BODY FAT!
WHOA!!!
IT'S DE-CREASED!
JUMPING ROPE IS AWESOME!
CHILD REARING IS AWESOME!
HEY!
You could've stepped on the scale after I was done!!

I'VE STOPPED MYSELF FROM BECOMING A TRAPEZOID!
MY STOMACH'S GONE BACK TO HOW IT WAS BEFORE!
NO, WAIT.
I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN...
FOR NEXT YEAR'S JUMP ROPE CONTEST!
LET'S JUMP ROPE AGAIN ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY!
RIN!

!!!
WHY? THE CONTEST'S ALREADY OVER, SO WE DON'T NEED TO.
HEY, KOUKI
whip whip
IT IS SO?
ISN'T THE JUMP ROPE CONTEST OVER AL-READY?
It's cold!
YOU COULD JUST JUMP ROPE IN THE YARD
WHY NOT?! LET'S DO IT!
IT'S EMBARRASS-ING FOR A 30 YEAR OLD GUY TO BE JUMPING ROPE IN THE YARD!
REALLY ?

Super Popular! Heartwarming story of Rin and Daikichi's life ♥

The three-legged race will continue, no matter where they go.

うさぎドロップ

第一部完

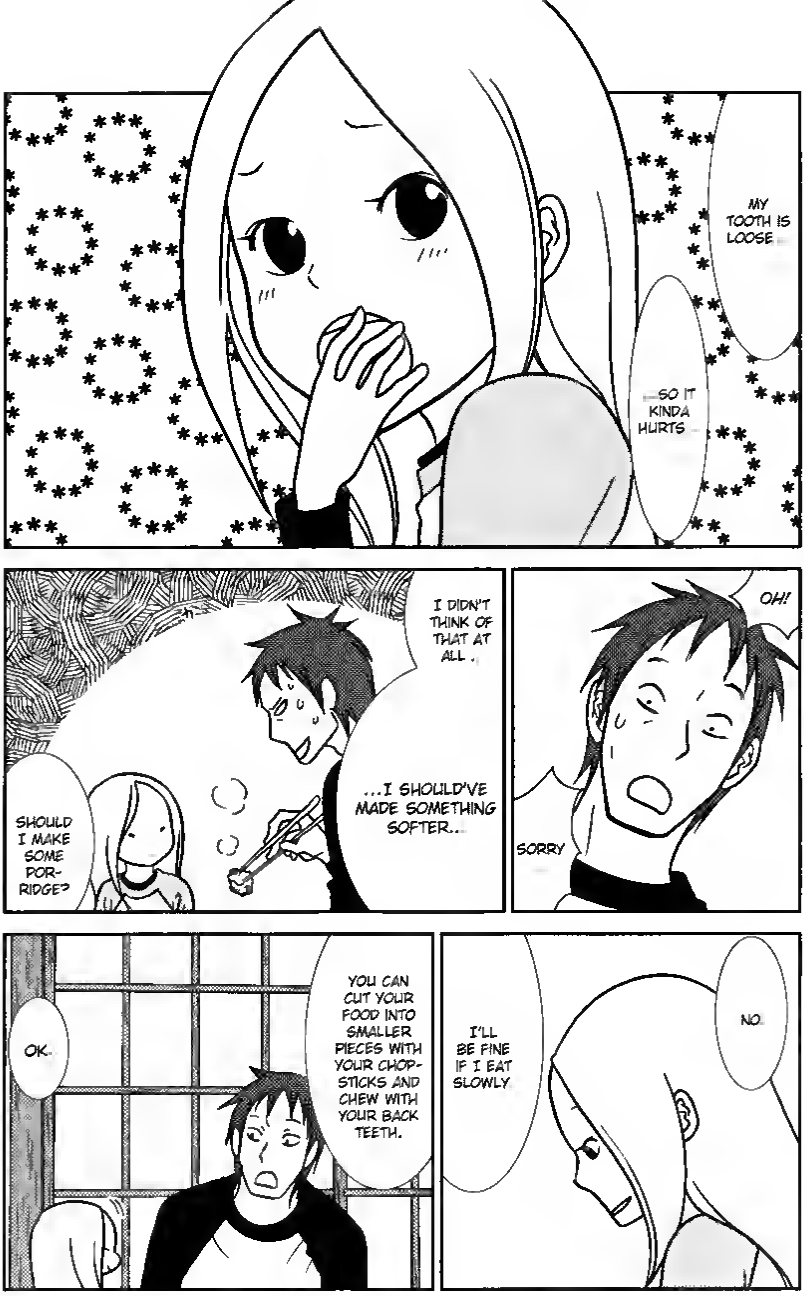
宇仁田ゆみ
Yumi Unita http://homepage2.nifty.com/unita/

episode.24

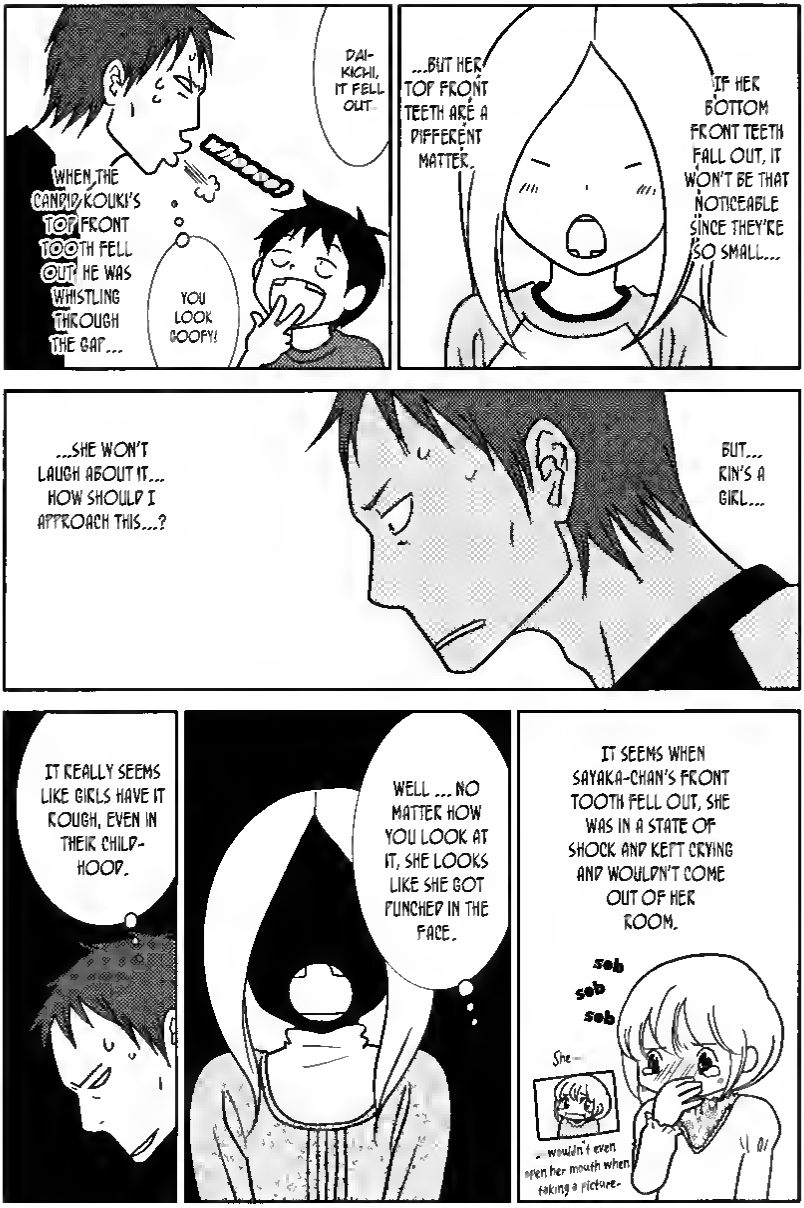
usagi drop
episode.24

usagi drop

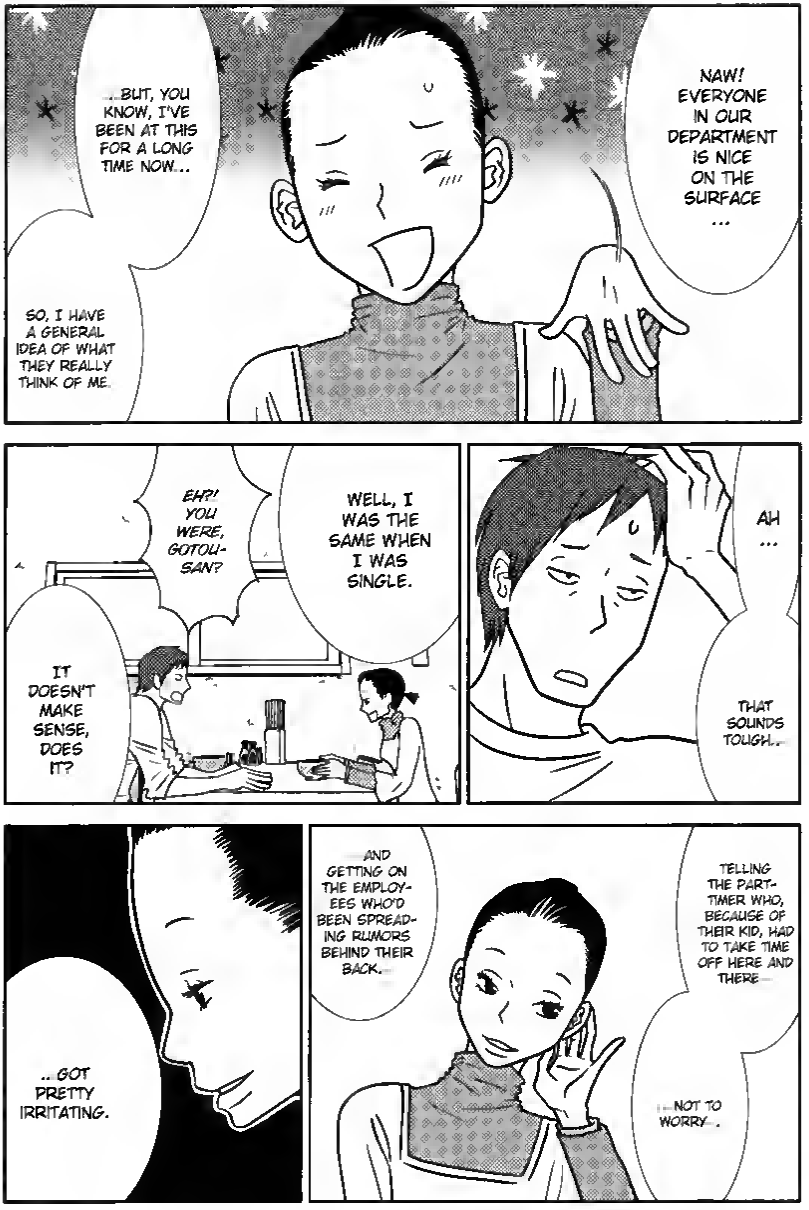
OH!
SORRY, THAT'S NOT IT!
OH ... IS THE FOOD NOT VERY GOOD?


MY TOOTH IS LOOSE...
...SO IT KINDA HURTS...
I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT AT ALL.
...I SHOULD'VE MADE SOMETHING SOFTER...
SHOULD I MAKE SOME PORRIDGE?
OH!
SORRY
NO.
I'LL BE FINE IF I EAT SLOWLY.
YOU CAN CUT YOUR FOOD INTO SMALLER PIECES WITH YOUR CHOPSTICKS AND CHEW WITH YOUR BACK TEETH.
OK.

EVEN RIN KEEPS CAREFULLY EXAMINING HER LOOSE TOP FRONT TOOTH.
AND JUST WHEN I THINK THEIR TEETH ARE GROWING BACK, ANOTHER ONE FALLS OUT.
HERE AND HERE
Again?!
Lost another front tooth →
ALL THE FIRST GRADERS RIGHT NOW HAVE MISSING TEETH...
IT LOOKS PAINFUL!
ACTUALLY, I'M GETTING WORRIED JUST LOOKING AT IT. I CAN'T STAND TO WATCH ANYMORE...
When it was happening to me, I always used to rattle and wriggle my teeth around!
MY TEETH ARE GOING TO FALL OUT?!
WHEN SHE FIRST HEARD HER TEETH WERE EVENTUALLY GOING TO FALL OUT, SHE WAS EXTREMELY FRIGHTENED.
And they grow back...
WELL, THEY WON'T FALL OUT ALL AT ONCE...
IF YOU JUST LEAVE IT ALONE IT'LL FALL OUT.
YOU'RE MESSING WITH YOUR TOOTH AGAIN.
BUT, SHE'S USED TO IT NOW.
wiggle
wiggle


WHEN THE CANDID KOUKI'S TOP FRONT TOOTH FELL OUT HE WAS WHISTLING THROUGH THE GAP...
DAI-KICHI, IT FELL OUT.
YOU LOOK GOOFY!
...BUT HER TOP FRONT TEETH ARE A DIFFERENT MATTER.
IF HER BOTTOM FRONT TEETH FALL OUT, IT WON'T BE THAT NOTICEABLE SINCE THEY'RE SO SMALL...
...SHE WON'T LAUGH ABOUT IT... HOW SHOULD I APPROACH THIS...?
BUT... RIN'S A GIRL...
IT REALLY SEEMS LIKE GIRLS HAVE IT ROUGH, EVEN IN THEIR CHILD-HOOD.
WELL ... NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE GOT PUNCHED IN THE FACE.
IT SEEMS WHEN SAYAKA-CHAN'S FRONT TOOTH FELL OUT, SHE WAS IN A STATE OF SHOCK AND KEPT CRYING AND WOULDN'T COME OUT OF HER ROOM.
sob
sob
sob
She...
...wouldn't even open her mouth when taking a picture-

gobble gobble
WELL, YOU KNOW, EVERY TIME MY SON HAS THE FLU, HE CRIES AND YELLS AND ACTS REALLY SPOILED. HE BECOMES DIFFICULT TO HANDLE.
chomp chomp
OH... REALLY?
THE FLU?!
ha ha
BUT MY HUSBAND DID CATCH IT, THOUGH.
WELL... YOU KNOW, I'M SO HEALTHY IT'S SCARY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, GOTOU-SAN?
SO YOU MUST GET A LOT OF HEAT FOR IT, HUH?
Amazing for someone so small!
HA HA
chomp chomp
gobble gobble
Eat a lot and hang in there!
BUT, ACTUALLY, I GOT QUITE A BIT OF REST WHILE I WAS NURSING MY SON BACK TO HEALTH AND EVEN BEFORE THAT, TOO, WHEN HE HAD THE STOMACH FLU AND CAUGHT SOME OTHER THINGS
SO, IT'S LIKE, EVEN IF I DIE, I PROBABLY WON'T FALL OVER


NAW! EVERYONE IN OUR DEPARTMENT IS NICE ON THE SURFACE ...
...BUT, YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR A LONG TIME NOW...
SO, I HAVE A GENERAL IDEA OF WHAT THEY REALLY THINK OF ME.
WELL, I WAS THE SAME WHEN I WAS SINGLE.
EH?! YOU WERE, GOTOU-SAN?
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, DOES IT?
AH ...
THAT SOUNDS TOUGH...
TELLING THE PART-TIMER WHO, BECAUSE OF THEIR KID, HAD TO TAKE TIME OFF HERE AND THERE...
...AND GETTING ON THE EMPLOY-EES WHO'D BEEN SPREAD-ING RUMORS BEHIND THEIR BACK...
...NOT TO WORRY...
.. GOT PRETTY IRRITATING.

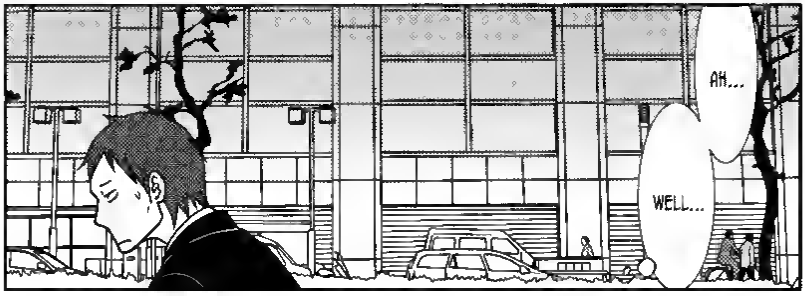
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT HER FRONT TEETH FALLING OUT RIGHT NOW
IS RIN-CHAN OKAY?
AH! IT WAS JUST A STOMACH FLU. IT'S STILL IN SEASON.
OOH! She's healthy!
...
SPEECHLESS
HITS HOME
R-REALLY?!
THEY'RE SO CUTE AROUND THIS AGE!
AH! RIN-CHAN'S AT THAT AGE NOW, HUH?
A KEEP-SAKE?!
!!
THEY'VE RECENTLY STARTED SELLING A LOT OF KEEPSAKE "BABY TEETH CASES". I'M SO JEALOUS!
gobble gobble

I GUESS I LIKE THEM QUITE A BIT MYSELF.
THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S JUST THAT THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF FAMILIES RECENTLY WHO WANT TO KEEP THEM IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION.
I'D... ALWAYS THROW MINE ONTO THE ROOF WITH ALL MY MIGHT!
IS THIS, YOU KNOW... WHAT THEY CALL A GENERATION GAP OR SOMETHING?!
BUT, YOU KNOW, THERE'RE A LOT OF THOSE SMALL CUTE CASES
SOME ARE MADE OUT OF WOOD...
And that's mean!!
GIRLS LIKE KEEPSAKES, AFTER ALL.
RIN WOULD REALLY LIKE THAT!
WOODEN SMALL AND ROUND CASES ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT COMMEMORATIVE...

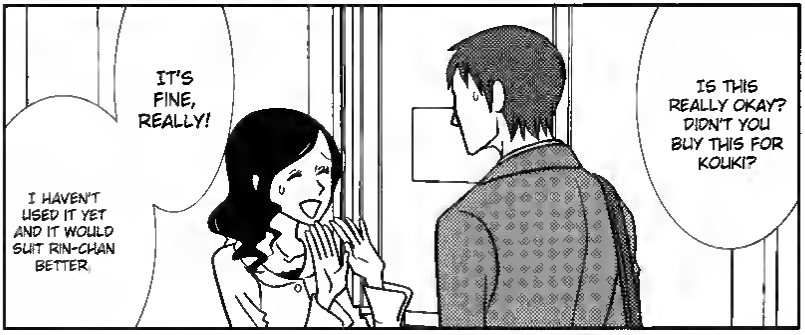
I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE...
JUST WHERE EXACTLY ARE THEY SOLD?
MAYBE AT THE DENTIST'S
It's a what mystery
ACK, I MADE A MISTAKE...
...THINKING THAT IT WAS A SMALL BUT FASHIONABLE NECESSITY.
!!!
I'M STUPID!
I CAN'T EVEN COME UP WITH A SINGLE THING TO PUT SOME TEETH INTO?!
...

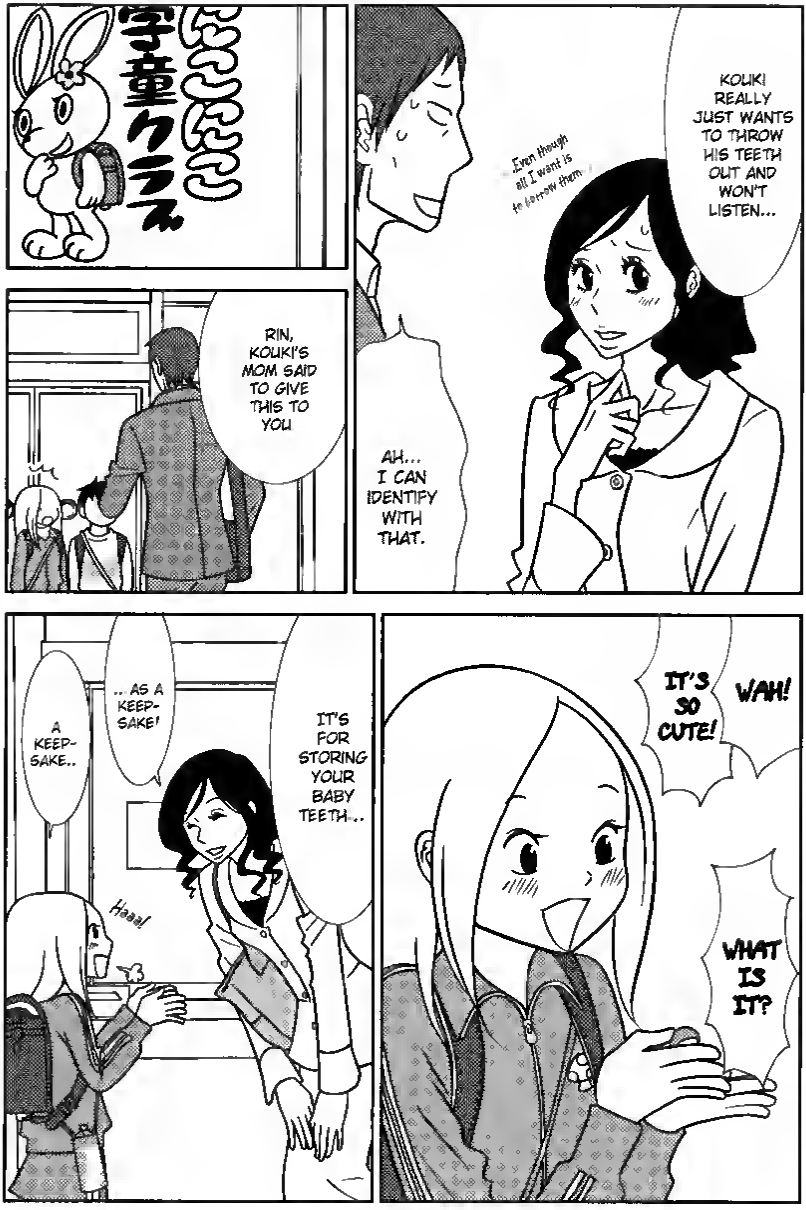
...WHAT'S UP WITH ME...?
I GET SCARED, AND PANIC OVER EVERY LITTLE THING...
...EVER SINCE I MET RIN.
IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS...
The nikujaga* you make is really delicious, Daikichi. You can run fast and you're really good at jump rope.
I DREW IT AT SCHOOL!
DAIKICHI, YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
WE HAD TO INTRODUCE OUR FAMILY.
かかりん
ダイキチ

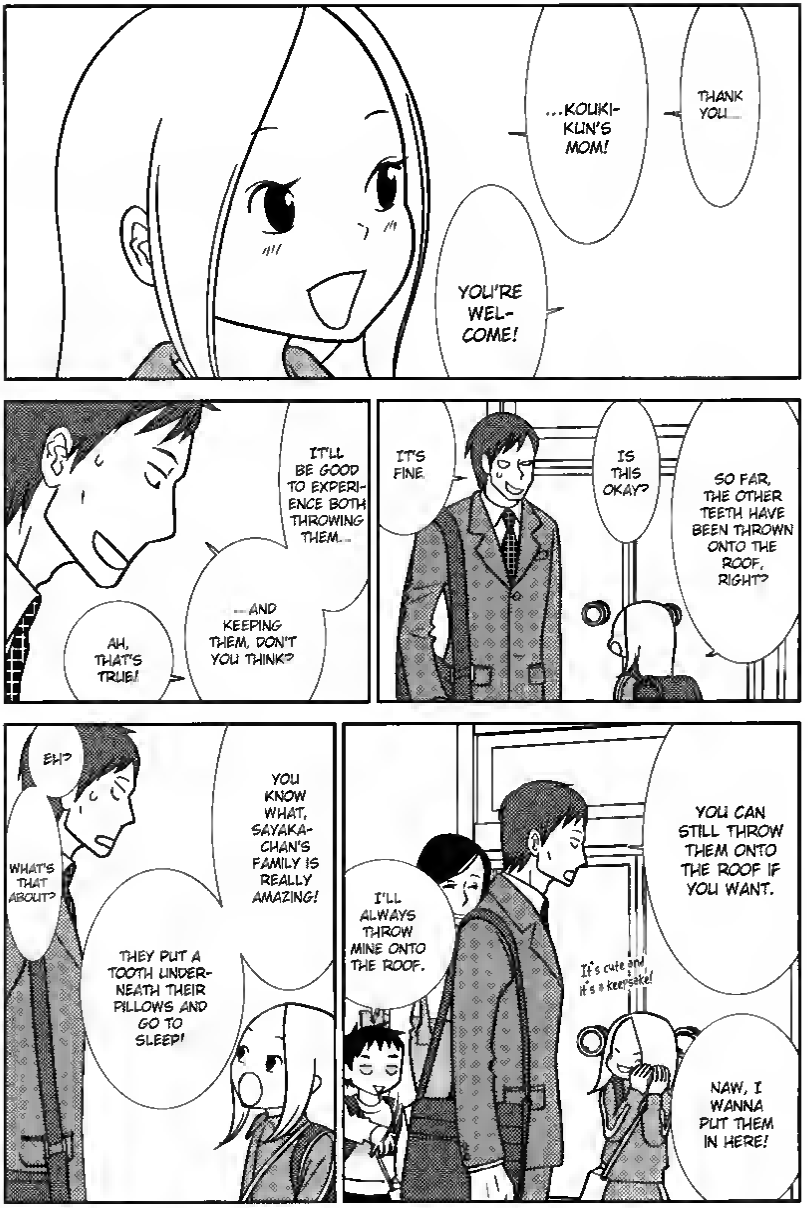
*Nikujaga: A Japanese dish consisting of meat, potatoes and onions, stewed in sweetened soy sauce and sometimes vegetables.

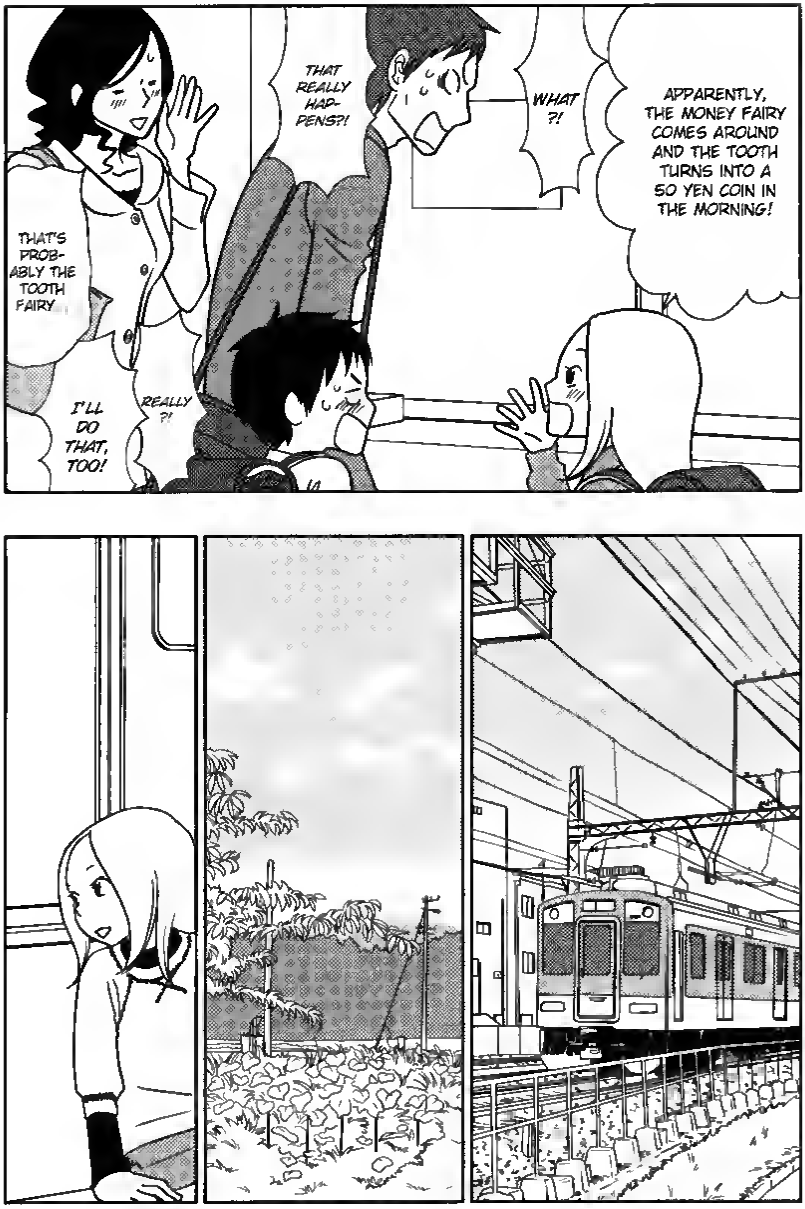

AH...
WELL...

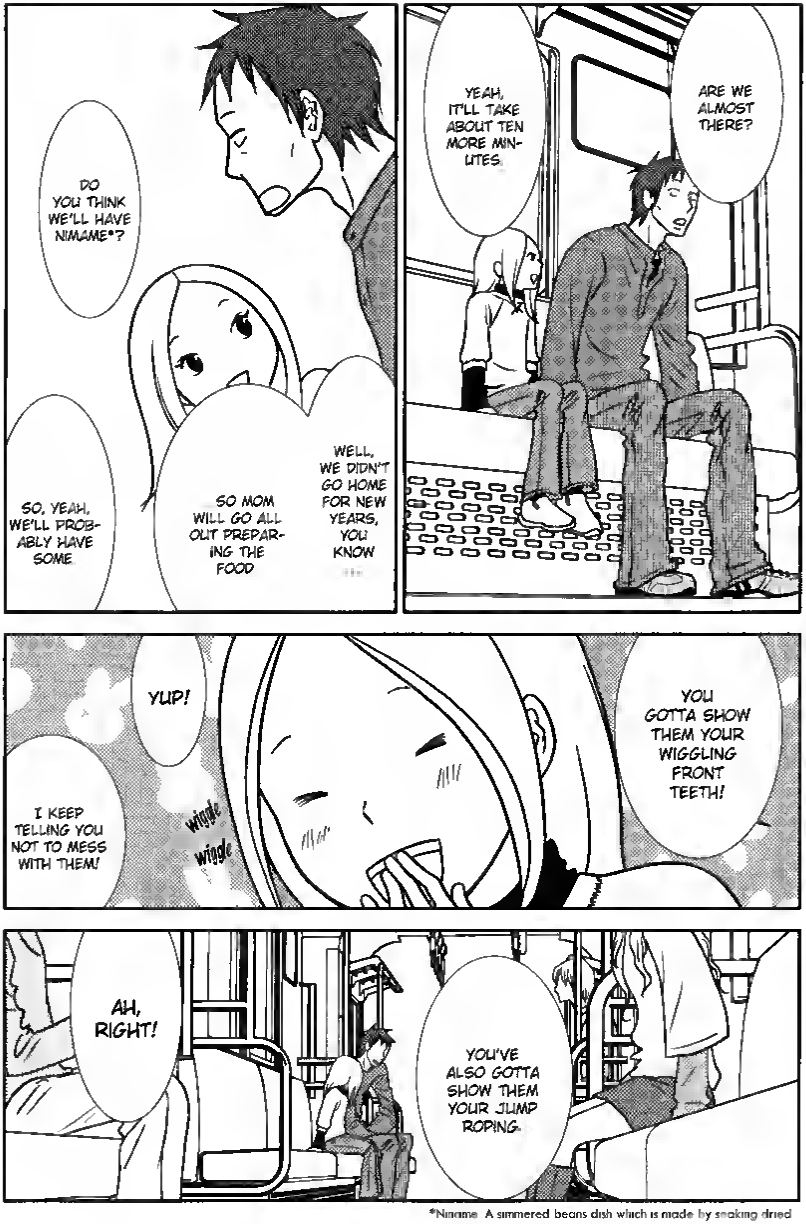
THIS LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING RIN WOULD DEFINITELY LIKE...
AH...


IS THIS REALLY OKAY? DIDN'T YOU BUY THIS FOR KOUKI?
IT'S FINE, REALLY!
I HAVEN'T USED IT YET AND IT WOULD SUIT RIN-CHAN BETTER.


ふたごたち
学童クラブ
KOUKI REALLY JUST WANTS TO THROW HIS TEETH OUT AND WON'T LISTEN...
Even though all I want is to borrow them.
AH... I CAN IDENTIFY WITH THAT.
RIN, KOUKI'S MOM SAID TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
WAH!
IT'S SO CUTE!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S FOR STORING YOUR BABY TEETH...
.. AS A KEEP-SAKE!
A KEEP-SAKE..
Haaa!


THANK YOU...
...KOUKI-KUN'S MOM!
YOU'RE WEL-COME!
IT'LL BE GOOD TO EXPERI-ENCE BOTH THROWING THEM...
...AND KEEPING THEM, DON'T YOU THINK?
AH, THAT'S TRUE!
IT'S FINE.
IS THIS OKAY?
SO FAR, THE OTHER TEETH HAVE BEEN THROWN ONTO THE ROOF, RIGHT?
EH?
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
YOU KNOW WHAT, SAYAKA-CHAN'S FAMILY IS REALLY AMAZING!
THEY PUT A TOOTH UNDER-NEATH THEIR PILLOWS AND GO TO SLEEP!
I'LL ALWAYS THROW MINE ONTO THE ROOF.
YOU CAN STILL THROW THEM ONTO THE ROOF IF YOU WANT.
It's cute and it's a keepsake!
NAW, I WANNA PUT THEM IN HERE!


THAT'S PROBABLY THE TOOTH FAIRY...
I'LL DO THAT, TOO!
REALLY?!
THAT REALLY HAPPENS?!
WHAT?!
APPARENTLY, THE MONEY FAIRY COMES AROUND AND THE TOOTH TURNS INTO A 50 YEN COIN IN THE MORNING!

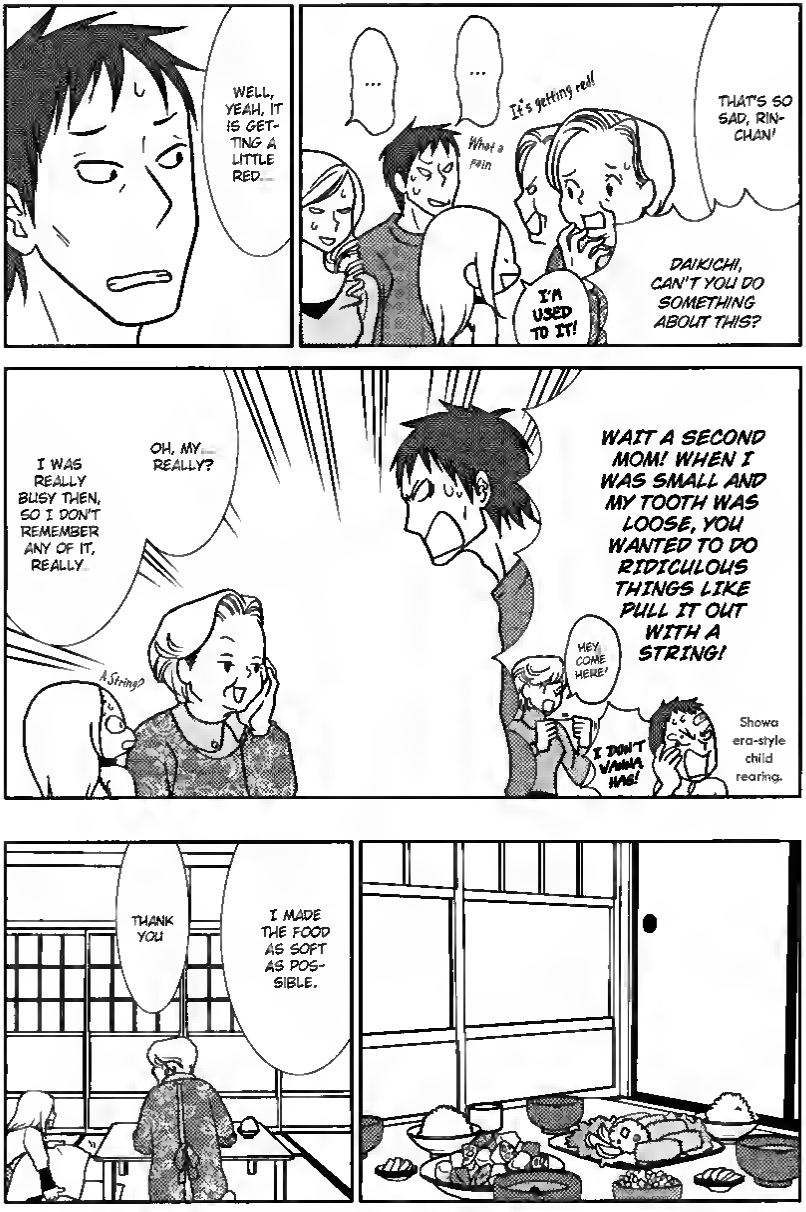

DO YOU THINK WE'LL HAVE NIMAME*?
SO, YEAH, WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE SOME.
SO MOM WILL GO ALL OUT PREPARING THE FOOD
WELL, WE DIDN'T GO HOME FOR NEW YEARS, YOU KNOW
ARE WE ALMOST THERE?
YEAH, IT'LL TAKE ABOUT TEN MORE MINUTES.
I KEEP TELLING YOU NOT TO MESS WITH THEM!
YUP!
wiggle wiggle
YOU GOTTA SHOW THEM YOUR WIGGLING FRONT TEETH!
AH, RIGHT!
YOU'VE ALSO GOTTA SHOW THEM YOUR JUMP ROPING.

*Nimame: A simmered beans dish which is made by soaking dried beans in water, and simmering them in something sweet or salty.

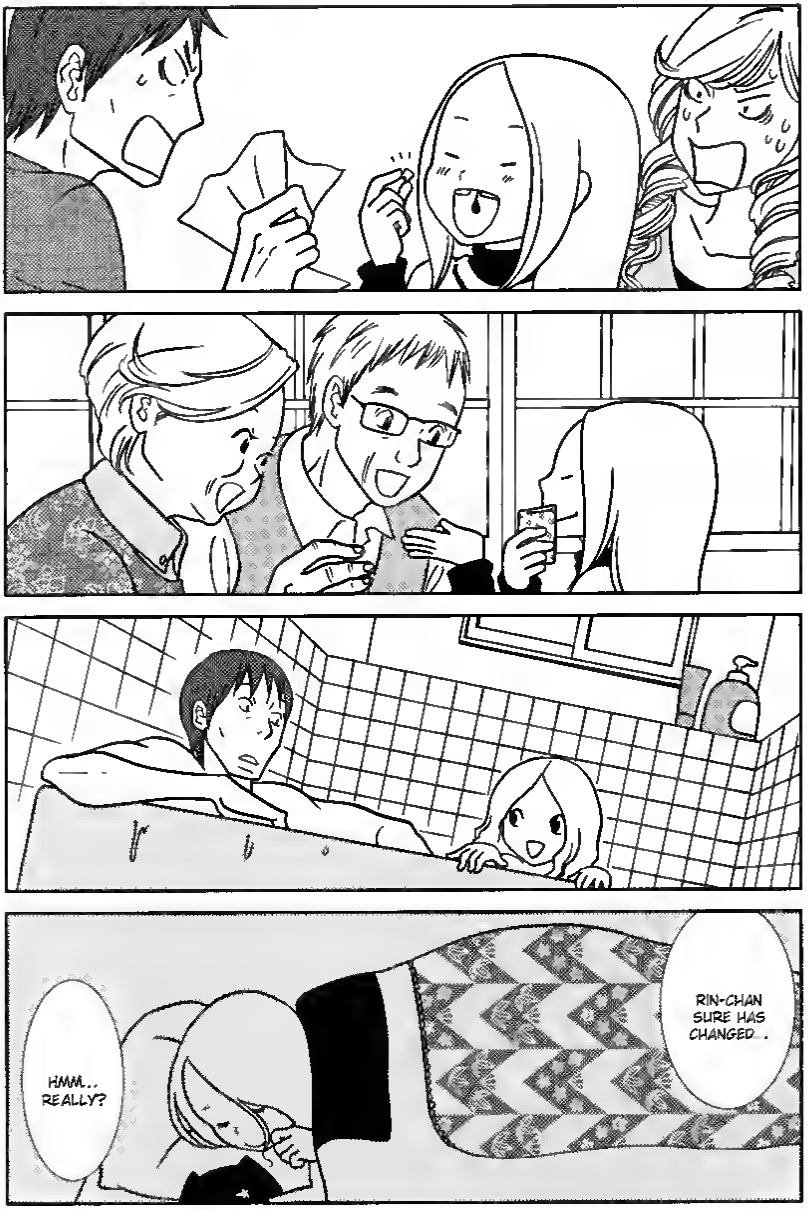
MAYBE I'VE EVEN GROWN TALLER THAN AUNTIE!
MOM AND DAD WILL PROBABLY BE QUITE SURPRISED.
AND, YOU'VE GROWN A LOT TALLER RECENTLY.
giggle
WELL... I DUNNO ABOUT THAT..

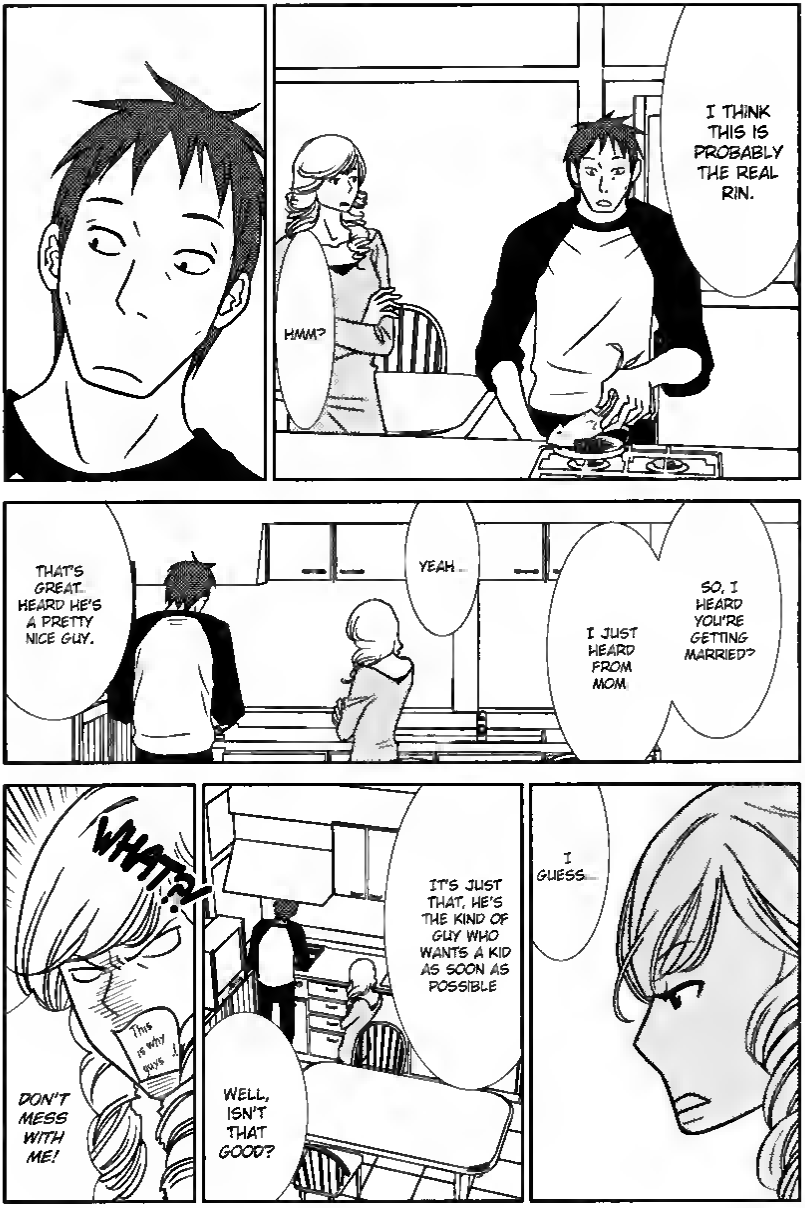
OH, MY! RIN-CHAN!
WEL-COME!
I'M BACK!
I'M BACK!
NAW, IT'S ONLY TEN MINUTES AWAY AND RIN CAN WALK
IF YOU'D HAVE JUST CALLED, I COULD'VE BROUGHT THE CAR AROUND TO PICK YOU TWO UP!
MY, MY, YOU'VE REALLY GOTTEN TALLER!
ARE YOU ONE OF THE TALLER ONES IN YOUR CLASS?
YUP!
YOU'LL BE TALLER THAN AUNTIE SOON ENOUGH!
Don't say such ridiculous things...
HOW TRUE! RIN-CHAN COULD PROBABLY BE A MODEL IN THE FUTURE, DON'T YOU THINK?!
I'M SURE SHE COULD!

WHAT'S THIS? YOU GUYS DIDN'T COME HOME FOR NEW YEARS EITHER?
WE WERE BUSY.
RIN-CHAN, LET ME SEE YOUR FRONT TEETH
OKAY!
KAZUMI !!
!!
KAZUMI ONEE-CHAN
AH!
W-WAIT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, RIN-CHAN?!
IT DOESN'T HURT?
DOESN'T IT HURT?
worried
worried
YEAH, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT HURTS, BUT I'M FINE.
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT
.. ARE LOOSE RIGHT NOW.
THE FIRST TWO FRONT TEETH —.


WELL, YEAH, IT IS GETTING A LITTLE RED...
...
...
It's getting red!
What a pain
I'M USED TO IT!
THAT'S SO SAD, RIN-CHAN!
DAIKICHI, CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?
I WAS REALLY BUSY THEN, SO I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT, REALLY...
OH, MY... REALLY?
A String?
WAIT A SECOND MOM! WHEN I WAS SMALL AND MY TOOTH WAS LOOSE, YOU WANTED TO DO RIDICULOUS THINGS LIKE PULL IT OUT WITH A STRING!
HEY, COME HERE!
I DON'T WANNA HAVE!
Showa era-style child rearing.
THANK YOU
I MADE THE FOOD AS SOFT AS POSSIBLE.

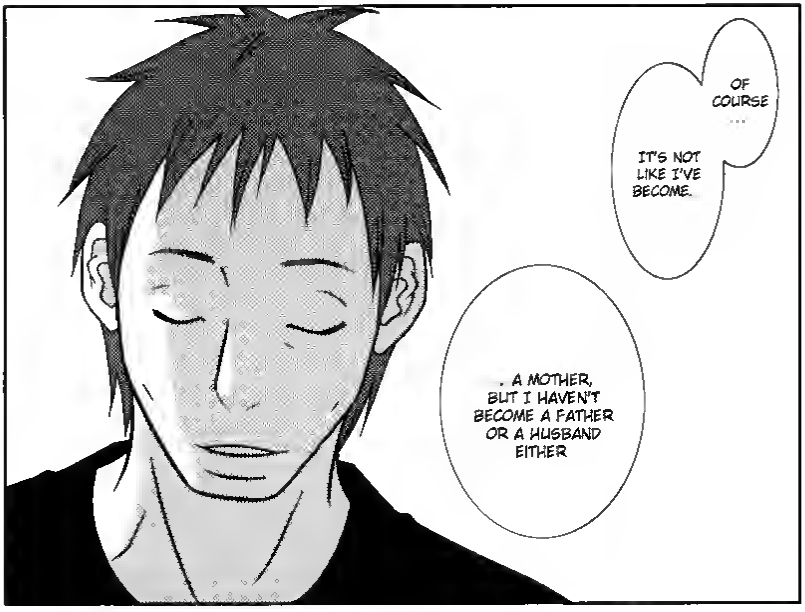
I LOVE TOFU!
IT'S YUMMY!
YUP!
RIN, DO YOU WANT SOME TOFU?
MY TOOTH!
DID IT FALL OUT?
OKAY!
AH!
RIN-CHAN, EAT LOTS, OKAY?

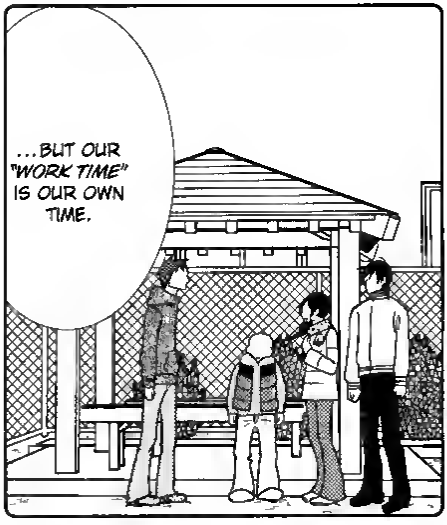

RIN-CHAN SURE HAS CHANGED..
HMM... REALLY?


I THINK THIS IS PROBABLY THE REAL RIN.
HMM?
SO, I HEARD YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED?
I JUST HEARD FROM MOM.
YEAH...
THAT'S GREAT. HEARD HE'S A PRETTY NICE GUY.
I GUESS...
IT'S JUST THAT, HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO WANTS A KID AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WELL, ISN'T THAT GOOD?
WHAT?!
This is why guys...
DON'T MESS WITH ME!

THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF THINGS I WANT TO DO...
...LIKE GOING SHOPPING, EATING OUT...
...GOING OUT DRINKING, WATCHING LIVE CONCERTS, TAKING VACATIONS...
THOSE ARE ALL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES YOU COULD CUT DOWN ON...
No mention of work, either.
...BUT IT'D BE TROUBLESOME IF I SAID THAT, SO I'LL JUST KEEP QUIET.
THOSE KINDS OF THINGS SHOULD BE TALKED OUT BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE
SERIOUSLY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THOSE KINDS OF THINGS!
AND BESIDES, I'M BAD WITH KIDS, AS WELL AS THOSE UNABASHED MOTHERS!
Ouch
I DON'T WANNA END UP LIKE THEM!

IF YOU'RE THAT WORRIED...
WELL...
...WON'T IT WORK ITSELF OUT SOMEHOW?
...
I DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO HAVE A KID..
TO EVEN GO AS FAR AS TO SACRIFICE ME
WELL, YEAH, I GUESS
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
GEEZ! YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM, BIG BRO
...THE BEST THING TO DO IS TO TRY AND FIGURE SOMETHING OUT

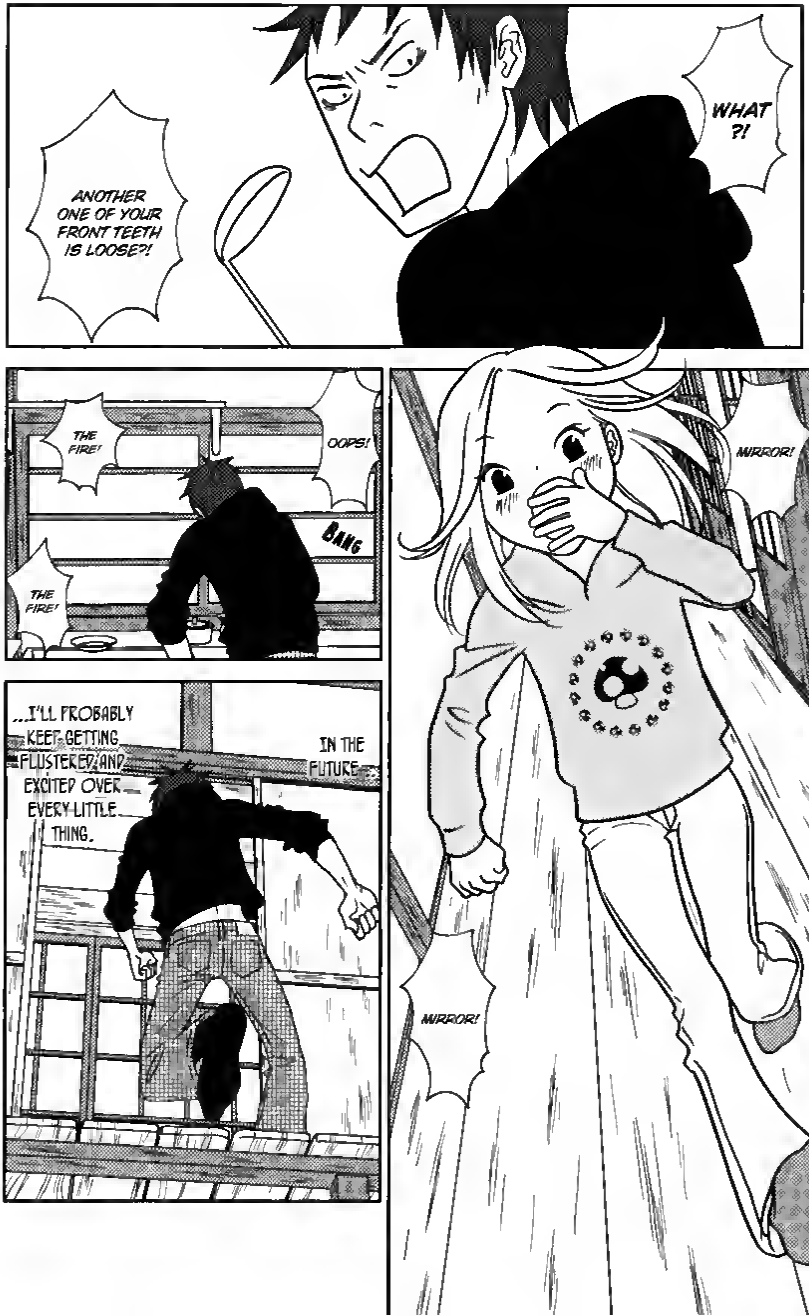

OF COURSE ...
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE BECOME.
. A MOTHER, BUT I HAVEN'T BECOME A FATHER OR A HUSBAND EITHER

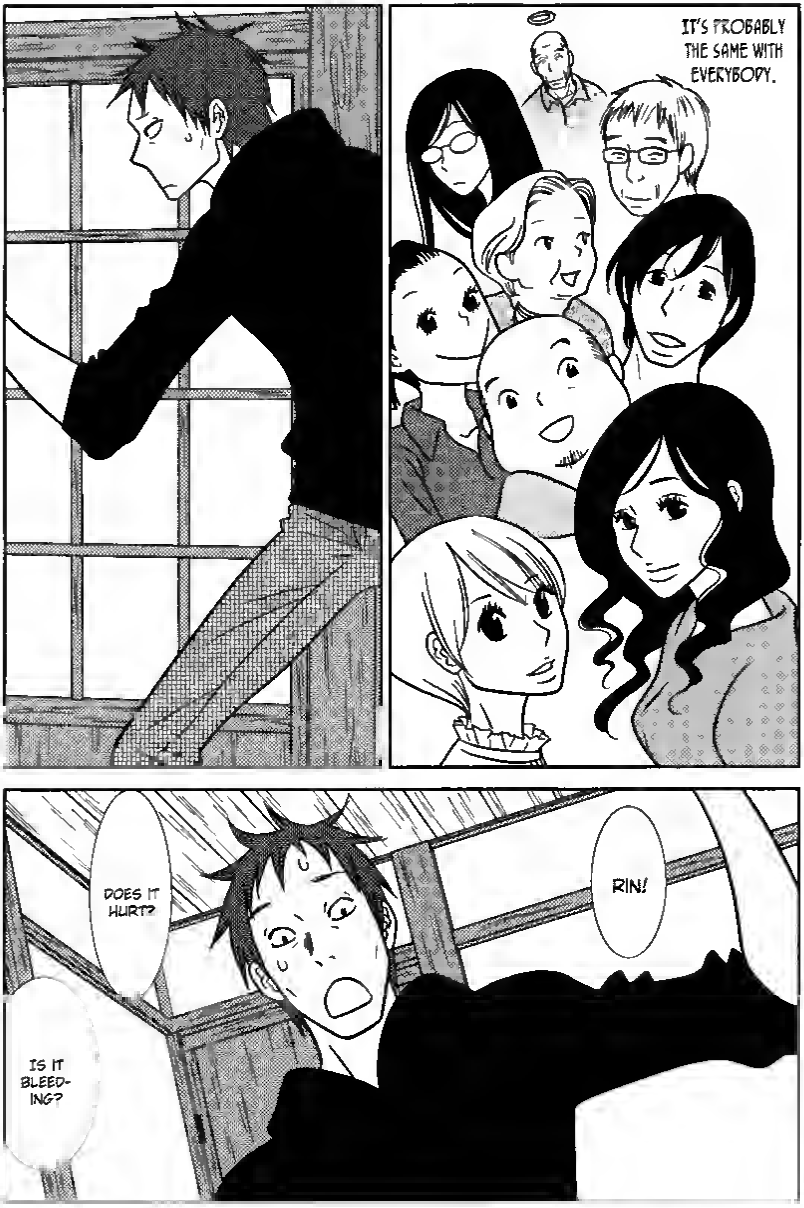

...BUT OUR "WORK TIME" IS OUR OWN TIME.

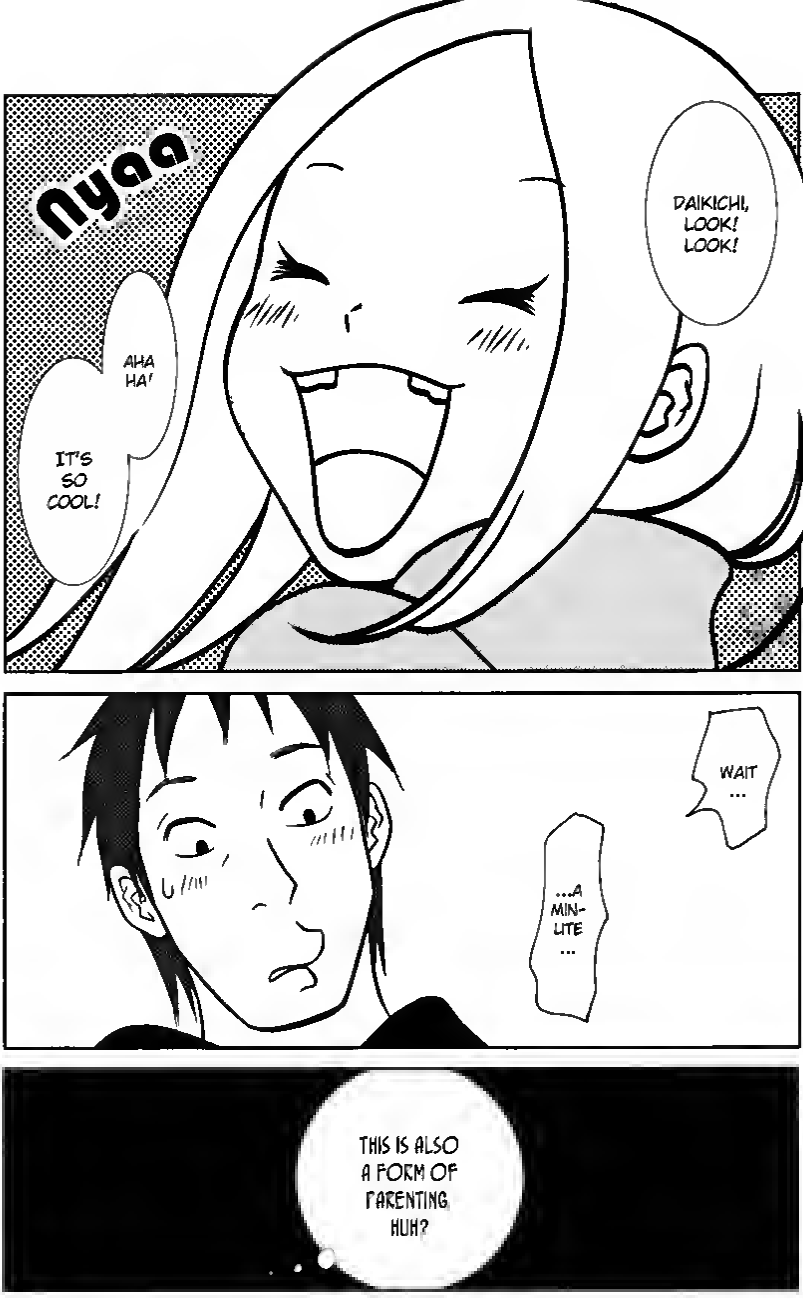
IT'S UNDENIABLE THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE KIND OF TIME TO LEISURELY..
...GO SHOPPING OR DRINK TEA...

OUR TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN IS OUR OWN TIME, TOO...
IT'S PRE-CIOUS.
JUST BECAUSE WE'RE SOMEONE'S PARENTS, DOESN'T MEAN IT'S ANY-THING SPECIAL, RIGHT?
BESIDES, YOU FIND FATHERS AND MOTHERS EVERYWHERE.

IT'S NOT EASY, BUT IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL EITHER, HUH?
UP UNTIL NOW, IT WAS NEVER AP-PARENT TO ME THAT...
...THERE WERE ALWAYS A LOT OF THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE AROUND ME.
AH...
I SEE!
THAT'S TRUE!


WHAT ?!
ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR FRONT TEETH IS LOOSE?!
OOPS!
THE FIRE!
BANG
THE FIRE!
MIRROR!
...I'LL PROBABLY KEEP GETTING FLUSTERED AND EXCITED OVER EVERY LITTLE THING.
IN THE FUTURE
MIRROR!


IT'S PROBABLY THE SAME WITH EVERYBODY.
RIN!
DOES IT HURT?
IS IT BLEEDING?


Nyaa
DAIKICHI, LOOK! LOOK!
AHA HA!
IT'S SO COOL!
WAIT ...
...A MIN-UTE ...
THIS IS ALSO A FORM OF PARENTING, HUH?

LET'S EMAIL YOUR PARENTS!
EH? SEND A PHOTO?
YUP!
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE? YOU LOOK LIKE A CAT!
AHAHA!
AREN'T YOU JUST SO CUTE!
NO MATTER WHAT I DO...
WHERE'S MY CELL PHONE...?
HURRY, HURRY!
...MOM AND DAD WOULD PROBABLY BE HAPPY, HUH?
AH... I GUESS.

...IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A SACRIFICE.

THAT'S HOW I BEGAN TO FEEL IN THE SPRING OF MY 31ST YEAR.

to be continued...